next phase should be one of war. yesterday, John Major and the Taoiseach, John Bruton, affirmed there is much common

sucked out of the action its leave.

> d in wishing to sec asefire," and said nents wanted to see aking part in incluw ceasefire. Dublin's i, set out again yesterday, another cessation along es of that announced in

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Mr Mai

When they met in London

ground between them. But the

two governments could not

reach agreement on the crucial

question of whether to guar-

antee republic sthat another

ceasefire wor swring them into

utlined the com-

hen he declared:

ugh to guarantee republican try into negotiations. In a direct appeal to the IRA made after the Downing Street meeting, Mr Bruton said: "Why not (call) a ceasefire now? I would say to the republican movement - those in Sinn Fein are people of ability. They should have nothing to fear in sitting down at the table to discuss their future with all their neighbours in Northern Ireland. They don't need re-

peratic principles, should be

course to violence "If the IRA makes the necessary effort in the way in which they frame their ceasefire dec- out of office."

TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Cold and gloomy

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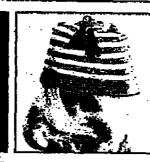
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THE TABLOID **Enid Blyton:** the grim side



THE TABLOID Smart kids get smarter



COMMENT

Polly Toynbee: why animal experiments are still necessary

Dark logic draws IRA back to war

outcome of yesterday's As the talking glo-Irish summit, which sees falters, David e British and Irish governments stuck in determinedly po-McKittrick lite deadlock, may well confirm the IRA in their belief that the

reports on the grim prospects for the peace process in Northern Ireland

laration, to convince all concerned that this time there is no turning back to violence - yes, I believe, Sinn Fein will be quickly admitted to talks."

The two leaders, who spent about two hours discussing Europe, will meet again at the Dublin summit on Friday. There is pessimism in Dublin that Mr Major's loss of a majority at Westminster has left the Government open to pressure from the Ulster Unionists.

Mr Major reiterated, how-1994, together with a ever, that he would want to exceasefire, and then scrutinise the IRA and Sinn Fein over an unspecified period of time before allowing the republicans into

Dublin, together with SDLP leader John Hume, accepts the Sinn Fein argument that in republican terms this is not practical politics. Republicans say that the 1994 ceasefire was a move on their part to produce negotiations, and that its failure to do so means that there cannot be another such unilateral move. One leading republican said: "An IRA leadership that did that would be just laughed

Many observers in Ireland. north and south, believe that Mr Major's position contains an ironic echo of that of Mr Adams. Just as another unilateral ceasefire is not practical politics for Mr Adams, so any bold move by Mr Major to assure Sinn Fein of serious negotiations would bring down

isaster on his government. In such a scenario the Unionists would walk out of negotiations. This would prevent all-party talks; it would also precipitate a campaign to bring down the Major government.

In Belfast, mainstream Unionist politicians are happy with Mr Major's present stance. But nationalists, for all yesterday's decorous agreement to disagree, are becoming more and more anti-Major.

In the south, according to a recent opinion poll, 50 per cent of people blame the prime minister for the stalemate in the peace process, while only 11 per cent blame the republicans. Britain has, in other words, a the Irish Sea.

The nationalist instinct is that there are doves in the republican movement who should be encouraged in their debates with their more hawkish associates. There is little sympathy for British ministers who chal-

lenge Mr Adams and company. This is being duly noted by the republicans who, it can be presumed, will now view their options as having been narrowed by the outcome of yesterday's talks. The chances are, having concluded in their comless analysis that jaw-jaw is not on offer, then it will have

Just a little something to warm you up



Top pay for teachers

other countries.

Great escape

Hong Kong.

CONTENTS

The Broadsheet

could be nothing more warming than Howard Hodgkin's new exhibition at London's Hayward Gallery.

This covers 20 years' work of someone considered by many to be our greatest living painter. Within a few terms, you you are electrifyingly

On these chill, colourless days, there days of opening, the show has been showered with superlatives.

In today's Tabloid section, our critic Bryan Robertson says: "Before you begin to wonder about content or what's going on in real, recognisable

smouldering red, a deep moody blue or a luminously verdant green practically hitting you from the wall. You're aware of a passionately decisive wel-ter of big, slashed brush-strokes, lus-cious but alert and bristling in their

intensity. Like the smile of the Cheshire cat in Alice, a generalised light-drenched mood seems to be transmitted from the paintings. You get the picture. On The Riviera (above) may not be cheaper than a ra-

Schizophrenic who attacked nursery children jailed for life

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The paranoid schizophrenic who ran amok with a machete at an infants' school, backing at toddlers and their teachers. was yesterday convicted of seven attempted murders.

Horrett Campbell, who was obssessed with the Dunblane killer, Thomas Hamilton, was ordered to be assessed at a highsecurity hospital yesterday, as a magistrate defended his actions in not ordering a psychiatric report in an earlier case.

A unanimous six-man, sixwoman jury at Stafford Crown Court took less than three hours to find Campbell, 33, guilty of attempting to murder three children and four women when he attacked them with at a Teddy Bears' picnic at St Luke's infants' school, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, in July.

The trial judge, Mr Justice Sedley, ordered Campbell to be detained at Ashworth mental hospital, Liverpool, for 12 weeks under an interim hospital order, and told him: "Unless this is a case in which I am caused to send you to a mental hospital under the Mental Health Act, I shall certainly be passing a sentence of life imprisonment on you."

The judge told the jury that he would recommend a bravery award for Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse at the school, who had shielded many of her young pupils from Campbell's blows despite suffering the worst injuries in the attack. "You may well be thinking that Lisa Potts deserves more formal recognition. I think so too."

Det Supt Sandy Craig, of West Midlands Police said he was convinced Miss Potts had averted one, two or even three overlooked the playground,



Horrett Campbell: Obse with Dunblane killer, Hamilton

murder inquiries. "She suffered horrific injuries herself and was lucky to survive," he said. Campbell, whose council flat

told police he believed the children were devils and claimed they picked on him. One witness told the trial that he strode through the playground brandishing the 2ft machete as if cutting corn. The horrified group of 18 children, aged three and four, and mothers scattered to avoid the blows. He later sur-

veyed the chaos from his flat. Campbell left Colton Hills comprehensive school at 16 without qualifications. He had become cut off from the outside world, had struggled to cope with the death of his mother and was thought never to have had a girlfriend. His mental condition was not diagnosed until after his arrest for the attacks, although a court report in a trial in November last year for affray and possessing an offensive weapon suggested his mental health be investigated. The

earlier case, Ian Gillespie, took the unusual step yesterday of is-suing a Lord Chancellor's Department statement defending his decision to sentence him to two months' jail rather than order a psychiatric report.

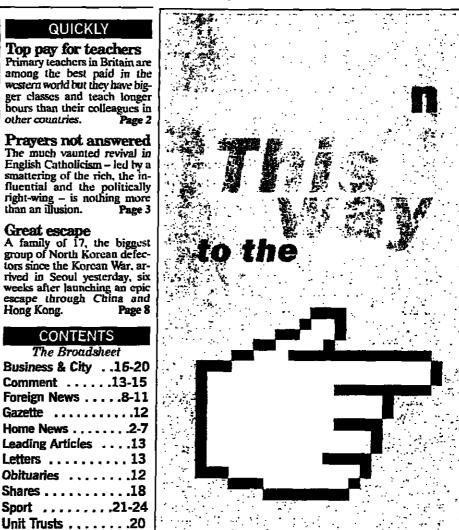
Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "In cases like this where there is violence or the threat of violence, there is a duty on the court to take account of the risk to the public. Virtually all mentally ill offenders are found to be in denial. It is the job of psychiatric services to coax them into treatment."

Paul Cavadino, of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said the previous history underlined the "overwhelming case" for court psychiatric schemes in every area of the country

Disaster waiting to happen

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Don't bin that bag: it may hold God's word

Steve Crawshaw

Recycling may be the international rallying cry for environmentally sound citizens, but Afghanistan's ruling Taleban has its own thoughts on the matter. Along with other radical steps to stem dissolute 20th-century practices, the movement's

to carry paper hags - especially if the paper in question has not least because plastic ones already enjoyed another, more dignified life, perhaps as a page

in the Koran. The new move is part of the Taleban's drive to impose Islamic law in Afghanistan. "We respect paper, whether it is written on or not. We have announced that people should not use paper for bags or put pa-per on the rubbish tip," Amir Khan Mutaqi, the acting information minister, said yesterday.

He demanded that people

often in the markets of Kabul, are much more expensive. Some women even earn their

livings by making up paper bags from discarded paper in the street. One woman squatting in front of a pile of paper bags in Kabul's Karte Parwan market said: "I used to work for the government, I need to sell bags to feed my family. What else can I do?" The government's logic is, as

one market trader noted:

new edict is: no recyling. Hence use plastic bags instead. How- from the Holy Koran or Arabic forth, citizens are not allowed ever, paper bags are used more writing on the paper which might be thrown away, and that would be an insult to the Holy Koran.'

The ban on paper bags is only the latest in a string of recent edicts, including a requirement that all government workers grow beards. A number of civservants have already been sacked for failing to comply. The paper bag han had un-expected side-effects. There

was an immediate run on toilet paper by customers worried that it, too, might be affected by There might be some words the Taleban edict.



Fin. An stit V No ene

A little festive warmth on the green baize

Some things are temporary and contingent: they come and they go. And when they ve gone. they leave little mark. Sexual passion, Barbic dolls, chocolate coloured clothing and government crises all fall into this category. But others are eternal and recurrent. essential parts of the deep fabric of life, and it was those - rather than the flashy and colourful plastic of Mr Major's plight - that were

pre-occupying MPs yesterday. Far from having spent the morning in deep plot, members had clearly been attending the first convivial pre-Christmas lunches. They were neither rowdy nor rancorous, but quiet and contemplative. So while the frantic political world outside chased the latest fashionable



It is rare indeed to hear an MP admit quite so courageously that his electors are selfish swine'

emergency, 40 or so gathered together for warmth on the green baize benches and spoke of profound things: of constituencies, ancient jealousies, man's relation with the natural world and of the millennium itself.

Toby Jessel (C. Twickenham) has the perpetual air of a man who is experiencing post-hospitality highs and lows. A generous word emphasiser and saliva scatterer he HOPED that government funds would NOT be found for 10 (wet) PINNACLES to be located from KEW to HAMPTON

This was followed by the lugubrious figure of Sir Michael Neubert (C. Romford), who addressed himself drily to the river. In banks of the Thames at Greenwich - would proper attention, he asked, be paid to "the river-road interface" This should have alarmed

Mr Jessel. If millennium pinnacles are bad, what must a millennium interface be like? Would it be situated halfway along the pinnacles, between numbers five and six? "Look, my son," we will be able to tell our children, "I was there when that magnificent interface was built." Or is this simply a pompous term for what used to be known as a "bridge"?

Ancient sentiments surfaced when the brave Patrick Nicholl (drink-driving ex-minister and wearer of violent yellow ties) told the House his constituents were unhappy that "substantial

sums that might be spent on Teignbridge are spent on overseas aid. It is rare indeed to hear an MP admit quite so courageously that his electors are a bunch of selfish swine who would rather splash out on more parking facilities at Toys R Us than save Africans from starvation.

Finally, the most enduring rivalry of them all was exposed when Newham's favourite urchin, Tony Banks, took on Tory toff and Church estates commissioner Michael Alison (Selby) over hunting on church lands. Did Mr Alison not recall St Luke and the five sparrows? Or Ecclesiastes "man shall not have pre-eminence over the

beasts for all his vanity"? Mr Alison's response was a model of country contempt for the town. Mr Banks could

do worse, he replied, than to don hunting red in pursuit of the urban fox. Let him "sit up a pack of "mangy mongrels", take an "Ouzo stirrup cup" and -

barrow-boys, sundry pimps

Sir Patrick Cormack (whose substantial bulk, were he to join the hunt, would have to be winched medieval style onto the saddle of his horse). Mr Banks did "not know the difference between a fox and a badger". Oh yeah, countryboy? Lemme tellya. They're both on display at the animal-

The flip

side of

friendly

Dolphins have a darker side. They

bludgeon to death their close evolu-

from the benign nature we have dreamed up for the ever-smiling dol-

phin. Playful and highly intelligent, they

may be but not gentle, for they fight

image rather," said Ben Wilson, of Ab-

erdeen University, who studies the ecology of the Moray Firth bot-

He believes that attacks by the 150

dolphins which inhabit the 5,000

square kilometres of the firth are a sig-

nificant cause of death among the

much larger number of porpoises liv-

Suspicions were first aroused some

"What we've found does rock their

Nicholas Schoon

Survival

multiple injuries.

each other as well.

we shouldn't forget it."

ing of internal organs.

astride an old donkey", rustle presumably - begin the chase through the middens and rat-infested rookeries of east London, accompanied by cries of "gam" front:

and effete cosmopolitans. Besides, added fellow Tory

'road rage' case police vesterday accused of

significant shorts

Detectives investigating the "road-rage" murder of Lee Harvey have found 120 motorists who travelled along the same route as him on the night he died, but none has been able to provide any new

Setback for

up on Sunday night along the route where Mr Harvey, 25. was said by his fiancée, Tracie Andrews, to have been chased by two men in a darkcoloured Ford Sierra. Mr. Harvey's throat was cut and he was stabbed 15 times the previous Sunday after allegedly being chased by the Sierra driver after leaving the Maribrook public house in Bromsgrove. Last week, Miss Andrews, 27, bearing a black eye and stitches, told a news conference about the attack

by the passenger in the Sierra, a "fat man with staring eyes". On Wednesday she was admitted to hospital, apparently after taking an overdose of pills. The next day, police said they had arrested a 27 year old woman for questioning, but they would not confirm it was Miss Andrews. She remains in hospital and is still too unwell to be questioned.

New head for bad pupils

tionary relative, the porpoise, in the seas off north-east Scotland. A new head has been moved Today video footage of the killings will be shown on a BBC2 programme about Scottish wildlife, Operation into a Croydon school because the council is so worried about pupils'

The bottlenose dolphins of Moray Croydon council has asked Firth gang up to hunt a passing por-poise, battering it with their skulls and George Varnava, the immediate past president of long, hard noses, biting it and flinging the National Association of Head Teachers, to take over It is a highly uneven contest: the as acting head of 900-pupil Ashburton High School. The three- to four-metre dolphins weigh five times as much as the metre-long council wants to avoid porpoise. The smaller cetaceans die of Ashburton becoming another The savagery seems an ocean apart

Ridings, the Yorkshire school which closed down earlier this year because pupil behaviour was so bad. The former head, Chris Hiscock, is being seconded to the council's education service.

Condoms for unsafe sex

Novelty condoms will not protect romantic seasonal revellers against an unwanted Christmas pregnancy, the consumer magazine Health Which? warned yesterday.

However, Trading standards officers approved of novelty six years ago when examination of washed up, dead porpoises revealed tooth marks, broken bones and crushcondoms - some of which low in the dark, or play the Dr Wilson said the cause of the at-Beatles' "Love Me Do" tacks would not be known until the dolprovided they were labelled as costs of care. not being intended for sex.

Christmas

too early

Christmas in the shops starts

survey published by NOP yesterday. Some 56 per cent of people described

themselves as irritated that

Christmas began so soon for

retailers, sometimes as early

as late summer. In Scotland

the figure was 67 per cent.

too early, according to a

phins carrying them out had been He and fellow scientists can pick out many of the individual bottlenoses

from the shape of and marks on their Once it was known whether females,

or males, or mixed groups were behind the killings this could help lead to an explanation, he said. But the video footage obtained so far has not been good enough to pick out the individ-One theory is that the killings

happen because the two mammals compete for similar food. This lethal behaviour is seen among other predators.

Otters are thought to kill or chase off the smaller mink. The biggest of the big cats, like tigers, sometimes kill smaller ones like leopards.

Intense competition for smaller orey may even explain the abiding, instinctive hatred between cats and

dogs.
The Independent and the World Wide Fund for Nature have produced an illustrated book on wildlife conservation in Britain, Going, Going, Gone, which features the porpoise. It is published by Bookman at £6.50, ISBN 189871839-3.

Tesco accused of interfering in union ballot

Senior managers at the Tesco supermarket chain were interfering in a union election ballot by distributing the literature of the "Blairite" candidate.

The company sent out an E-mail instruction to all 500 Eight road blocks were set store managers telling them to send out leaders to shop stewards on behalf of Bill Connor, standing on the "moderate" ticket for the leadership of Usdaw, the

shopworkers union.
His left-wing opponent
Terry Savage, who has
attracted backing from Tratskyists to middle-of-theroad Labour supporters, argued it was "unethical" for a union official to rely on the

help of management.
Leslie James, Tesco's
human resources director, said that they acceded to the request from Mr Connor because of management's "mature" relationship with the union and that the company would be "happy" to circulate documents on behalf of Mr Savage. There was no question of favouritism. Barrie Clement

Surgeon's mistake

A surgeon mistakenly removed the healthy part of a stomach and intestines of a cancer victim, the General Medical Council heard

James Gough was supposed to have been carrying out a routine operation on the colon of Robert Hodgin, 75, a the Bolton General Hospital on 14 July last year, it was claimed. Rosalled Foster, Council barristen said the botched operatio was performed by Mrs nugh just a two weeks after handarted

work at the hospital der the supervision of a conspictant.
The committee fatual. Mr Gough guilty of serid but a professional misconder, this ordered that his name o pass-removed from the mediation register. He has 28 days live

State should support the old

Research by Leicester University has dashed Government hopes of winning public support for the "privatisation" of longterm care for Britain's growing numbers of elderly people. Virtually everyone interviewed thinks the state should have some involvement in paying the

Bank staff cry humbug

Leaders of thousands of bank workers at Lloyds and NatWest are threatening a mass walkout at noon on Christmas Eve unless management abandons its attempts to make staff work late. Both banks want to end their traditional practice of early closing and stay open for fast-minute shoppers.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Britain's teachers at top of pay league

Primary teachers in the United King-dom are among the best paid in the Western world, but they have bigger classes and teach longer hours than their colleagues in other countries, according to an international study published

The figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development shows that only Irish, Spanish and Portuguese teachers in a list of 21 westem industrialised countries cara more in relation to national average income

Irish teachers earn twice the national average while Italian, Norwegian and Swedish teachers have the lowest relwith 15 years' experience. UK primary teachers also made bigger salary gains between 1985 and 1993 in relation to national income than those in many oth-

er countries. Teachers in Austria, Finland and Portugal also did well and those in Greece, Ireland, Japan and the Netherlands

However, primary school teachers are contracted to teach longer hours in the UK than in many other countries. They work 950 hours a year - fourth in a list of 20 countries - compared with an average among 20 countries of 829

Swiss and Dutch teachers work the longest hours and those in Norway and Sweden, who have relatively low salaries, the shortest. Hours in Sweden are 40 per cent below the average. The report comments: "There does seem to be a tendency to reward longer-working teachers more than shorter-working ones." It also notes that the best paid teachers tend to be responsible for more pupils. Both pay and the number of pupils per teacher are fairly high in both the UK. In 1993, UK teachers were responsible for more than twice as many children (21.7) as those in Italy (9.9). There are more pupils per teacher in Turkey (27.6) than any other country. The more teachers are paid, says the report, the harder it will be to afford

Donald Hirsch, a consultant for the organisation, said: "In the UK, extra money spent on education has gone into teachers' salaries rather than lowering pupil-teacher ratios." Such ratios have been rising in UK primary schools but falling in most other countries.

Overall, spending on education in the UK as a percentage of national income is comparatively low. It comes 20th out at the top and Turkey and Greece at the

In higher education, however, the UK has more people graduating in the relevant age group than anywhere else in Europe. That is because the big expansion in student numbers in recent years has not led to an increased drop-

A spokeswoman for the National Union of Teachers said that the growth in teachers' relative earnings appeared high because they included two exceptionally big rises one in 1987 when the profession lost its collective bargaining rights and one just before the 1992 gen-

"We also have the same scale for primary and secondary teachers which doesn't happen anywhere else in the world. One of the difficulties with international comparisons is that they ig-nore salient facts. In Portugal, for instance, you don't have to be a professionally trained graduate to be a

Teachers' pay Salary of primary school teachers with 15 years' experience as a multiple of GDP



Cruel sea: The lovable dolphin (top) and members of the species in more

The financial jungle: a free machete.

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Fashionable voices have been predicting a Catholic revival, but the pews tell a different story. Jack O' Sullivan reports

The resurrection that never was

The much-vaunted revival in English Catholicism, led by a smattering of the rich, the influential and the politically right-wing, is an illusion.

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South Mark

Figures due to be published in Catholic Directory 1997 show that the Catholic Church is, in fact, facing a crisis of empty pews. The faithful are leaving their church in considerable their church in considerable numbers and the decline shows no signs of abating.

The directory reveals that there was a drop of 55,000 in the average Mass attendance between 1994 and 1995 in England and Wales, with numbers falling from 1.19m in 1994 to 1.135m last year. This follows a fall of 200,000 since 1988. Cafod, the Catholic development agency, predicts that by 2005 Sunday observance will have fallen even further, to 600,000.

These figures challenge the claims of Catholic triumphalists such as Paul Johnson, the rightwing Catholic historian and columnist. He has led a chorus claiming that the long-dreamed of conversion of England is at

"Here is a providential event," Mr Johnson has declared, "for which St Thomas died in the Tower and St Edmund Campion at Tyburn, for which Wiseman planned, Manning fought and schemed, Newman prayed and preached, and a host of great writers - Belloc and Chesterton, Maurice Baring, Evelyn Wangh, Christo-pher Dawson and Ronald Knox, devoted their splendid talents

The latest statistics mean that the conversion of the highprofile few must be set against the flight of the many. In recent years the Duchess of Kent has converted, as have government ministers Ann Widdecombe and John Gummer, with vociferous proclamation. The Princess of Wales, it is said, has whiffed the smells, heard the bells, and, like many a fellow Sloane Ranger, been tempted. Even Tony Blair has illicity taken Communion in his local Roman Catholic church.

There is worse news for the triumphalists, who have gloated over the recent exodus to Rome of 300 Anglican priests, men who could not stomach the



Ann Widdecombe: 'I must learn to talk about Mass not Communion, the priest not the vicar, to say 'they' not 'we' about Anglicans'



'I have been told by Roman Catholics that becoming one of their number is a completion of my previous beliefs'

ar who converted to Catholicism because he believed the presence of women priests turned the Church of England into a narrow sect.

The triumphalists have been damning of Anglicanism. Last so catching, as to constitute a month, in the Speciator; Mr leprous liability to other church-Johnson said it was 'now so es, even my own".
damaged and corrupt, so obvi-Oddie, a former Anglican vic- infections from which it suffered as Catholicism decline deepens.



ordination of women. Their damaged and corrupt, so obvi-cheer-leader has been William ously morally diseased, and the that Anglicanism is picking up days than Catholics, even

in decades, to be more Angli-

Catholic priesthood is deeper than for Anglicanism. Just 52 Catholic priests were ordained

dinations that year.

"When you attend a Catholic church, you find there is a genlast year - far too few to replace eration missing," said John



Paul Johnson: Let us leave the Anglican corruption to become in name, as it is becoming in reality, the Church of Sodom'



Alice Thomas Ellis: One is, of course, reluctant to remark that heresy is rampant in the Church, but it is'

Wilkins, editor of the Tablet, a liberal Catholic weekly. "You tend to find that the 30-to-40year-olds are not there."

The reasons for this decline are many. Traditionalists blame a watering-down of doctrine. Another factor may be the anglicisation of Irish workingclass immigrants, who have been the mainstay of the Catholic Church, presided over

by a top-dressing of English eler-ical aristocrats. Feeling more secure in less hostile times, the children of Irish Catholics may be less worried about hanging on to their religious identity: it is notable that Mass attendance has fallen most dramatically in Liverpool, where only a fifth of the haptised population are in the pews on Sunday.

It may, however, be that many, though still calling them-selves Catholics, no longer feel obliged to attend Mass every Sunday, Mass-going may be considered more optional than in the past, a new phenomenon making the figures look worse than the reality.

But many Catholic intellectuals argue that there is further. deep-seated problem. The authontarian, fundamentalist pose struck by the current Pope. John Paul II - an image that so appeals to a tiny minority of Anglicans disillusioned with liberalism - is turning off the rest of the Catholic faithful. The Pope has retreated from many of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). which democratised Vatican decision-making and held the promise of a softening on many doctrinal issues. Ordinary people's lives and beliefs are increasingly at odds with the Vatican's pronouncements on. for example, contraception, priestly celibacy and women. Cardinal Basil Hume has

largely succeeded in keeping tensions contained by turning a deaf car to Rome's most provocative statements. Public attention has thus focused more on the Church of England as it has torn itself apart over the challenge of existing in a secular age. But the crisis has still grown within Catholicism.

There is a truce about all this

in the English Catholic Church," said Mr Wilkins. "But it is an agreement not to talk about the problem. If you are not careful, you find the church pulling you one way and your life pulling you the other way. The ones that leave feel divided. They say, 'To hell with this', and go quietly. I think we have lost some of our best women. because this church is particupatriarchy. These disaffected people don't show up in public battles. But they show up in the

Popular Protestants are the next Pope's problem

Andrew Brown

The Roman Catholic church in this country may be suffering from rapidly falling membership and a shortage of priests and money. But it is at least fairly united in public. Elsewhere in the developed world, the sort of passionate hatred that Paul Johnson pours upon Anglicans is reserved by Catholics for their brothers and sisters in the one true church.

In the US and Germany, the two richest Catholic churches in the world are torn between liberals and conservatives, who are organised in apparently irrecing for five reforms. They oncilable camps, divided by wanted married clergy, women their attitudes to women, to papal authority and to the role of the church in the modern world. For the past 20 years, bishops have been selected only from of divorced Catholics.

men who have shown unremitting fidelity to the most controversial aspects of Vatican teaching, especially the ban on artificial contraception. This has only increased the distance between their views and those of most of the faithful.

On Sunday an international movement for the reform of the Catholic Church, known as "We are the Church", launched itself in a London church. It sprang from a referendum among Catholics in Austria last year. when 500,000 people, a third of the country's church-going poppriests, contraception within marriage, a more humane treatment of homosexuals and recognition of the remarriages

Highest honour

for the theatre's

in Germany, where they gained 1,500,000 signatures, despite the bishops campaigning actively against them. The church in Austria had been split, and some bishops allowed the collection of signatures after church services. In this country

there will be no collection of sig-

natures. But there is consider-

able support for some parts of Conservatives have fought back around the world. In America, the Bishop of Nesations this spring. Pope John women out of the question for ever last year. He has constantly reiterated his

of greater democracy in the

However, the greatest challenge faced by the Catholic Church comes not in the West but in the Third World, where the bulk of the world's Catholics live. The insistence on priestly celibacy is producing a tremendous shortage of priests, where it is not ignored, as it is large parts of Africa. At the same time, the rise of Pentecostal Christianity in Latin America is gutting the a despised and insignificant mibraska excommunicated all the members of 11 liberal organiper cent of the Christians in some Latin American countries. That may well come to



Sir John Gielgud: 75 years on stage, film and television

stage in 1988, he recently acted in an Australian film, Shine, and declares himself open to of-"I am very frivolous, I have a fers of short roles which "have something to appeal to me". Sir John, the great-nephew Ellen Terry, won a scholarship to RADA before appearing at 17 at the Old Vic as a herald in Henry V. By 1924 he was play- Revisited.

ing Romeo, and a string of Shakespearean leads followed, including a Hamlet which broke box-office records in America. Knighted in 1953, his career appeared to falter by the 1960s but he soon found a niche in television and film, notably

the 1981 television Brideshi



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from his Aylesbury home that he was "very much honoured". The Queen chose him to fill the vacancy left by the death of founded by Edward VII, can only ever number 24 people, two of whom are the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Lord Olivier was the last actor to gain the OM. As a member, Sir John joins Baroness Thatcher, Lord Menuhin and Lucian

Arts Correspondent

The Queen has appointed Sir

Merit, the highest accolade she

can offer, Buckingham Palace

announced yesterday. The news came as a shock to Sir John, 92,

regarded as Britain's most dis-

tinguished actor, but he said

grandest knight Nightingale, Elgar and Sir Winston Churchill, with honorary membership (as foreigners) held by Nelson Mandela and John Gielgud to the Order of Mother Teresa.

Sir John's career has spanned 75 years on stage, film, television and radio. He has dazzled critics on the classical stage. tackling every major Shakespearean role from King Lear to Hamlet. And he has shone on screen, too, appearing naked, aged 87, in Peter Greenaway's Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of Prospero's Books, and winning the jet engine. The order, an Oscar opposite Dudley Moore in the 1980 light-hearted film Arthur.

He recently said he did not understand much of the Bard. shallow nature," he added. "I'm able to bolt down a cheap thriller, but I couldn't read Troilus and Cressida or Coriolanus with any great pleathe sovereign as "individuals of

Dead MP allows Tories to keep committee majority

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Barry Porter, the Conservative MP who died last month, still counts as part of a Government majority for legislative committees, Commons officials have ruled.

Labour had expected that Thursday's Barnsley East byelection, when the return of a new Labour MP will wipe out the Government's one-vote Commons majority, would trigger a critical change in Commons standing committees.

Standing committees give line-by-line examination of bills, and the loss of a Government

majority on new committees could have threatened trouble for the Finance Bill, the Police Bill and the National Health Service (Primary Care) Bill.

But Sir Fergus Montgomery, fory chairman of the committee that fixes the political balance of standing committees, yesterday took the advice of Commons clerks on Barnsley East and Wirral South, the by-election vacancy caused by Mr Porter's death.

He told BBC radio: "So far as Wirral South is concerned... at the moment that is regarded as a Conservative seat. Until we have the by-election there

Labour Chief Whip Donald Dewar challenged that view, saying: "Clearly there is going to

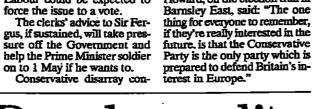
be an argument about that." He argued that a Commons resolution, passed in January last year, ruled that when the Government lost its majority because of by-election defeat, or defection to another party, it should lose its majority on

standing committees. But Sir Fergus has been advised that the resolution does not include the critical word "death" - the Government cannot lose its standing committee majority through the death of an MP. That gives the Govern-

Wirral South by-election for as long as possible. Prime Minister's On the Record warning that rebels were play-There are no rules on by-elec-

ing into Labour's hands. tion timing, but there is a convention that the writ for a Backbench dissident Teresa three-week election campaign Gorman said she would next should not be delayed longer month bring forward a 10than three months after the minute rule bill offering a refdeath of an MP suggesting a late erendum choice between the February deadline for the poll. European Union as a trading group or a federal state. If the writ was not moved in

Home Secretary Michael Howard, on the election trail in the first week of February, Labour could be expected to





hard to sit up

occasional spasm

In a month she might have the

In a year she won't be wa'king

Then her problems will really

Right at this point her rights

because her legs will be taut one

begin. People will notice she's

different. They'll start treating her

housing will be out of her control

because she can't control her

Later, she'll find entering society

moment and floppy the next.

Archer seeks Royal equality

force the issue to a vote.

on to 1 May if he wants to.

first-born isn't automatically

The last time such a motion

ented to the Lords, in

0800 62 62 16.

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Sex discrimination would be removed from the Royal succession under a measure put forward yesterday by the former deputy Conservative Party chairman, Lord Archer of We ston-super-Mare.

Peers voted by 74 to 53 to ask the Queen for permission to in-troduce a bill which would make Princess Anne fourth in line to the throne.

Lord Archer pointed out that the measure would be unlikely

years. The Prince of Wales rould still succeed to the throne and would be followed by Prince William. However, if Prince William's first child was a girl she would be first in line to succeed him.

Because of the Bill's nature,

the Queen must be asked if she is happy for it to be debated. She is thought to be highly unlikely to reject it. After the vote, Lord Archer

confessed that he was slightly surprised that peers had deanded a division on the issue. 1994, there was no vote. The

impossible because she won't

public buildings or public transport

Human Rights Day: when we

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today, but every day for people with

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followed by education at one of our

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non-disabled people

oldest children to succeed to become law before the general peerages regardless of their gender, was rejected at its secelection, but he hoped it could ond reading.

Lord Archer's measure will be re-presented soon after-

"I feel very strongly that as meet some opposition, partly this isn't going to matter for 50 years it would be wise to get it from hereditary peers who fear it will lead to a re-examination out of the way," he said. "În 50 of their own position. years' time our grandchildren Among those who opposed yesterday's humble address will consider it farcical the

one of our colleges, or indeed.

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society's prejudice. To this end, we

need the means; your time your

money and your positive attitude.

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your own rights, isn't it wrong to

And remember, if you value

We can't cure cerebral palsy

were the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, the former Commons Speaker, Lord Weatherill, and the Liberal Democrat, Earl Russell.



Rounding up the truants: The White Paper says a lifeline is to be thrown to disaffected

Schools to be paid by exam results

Education Correspondent

Payment by results will be introduced in schools for the first time under new Government proposals to fund all education and training for 16- to 19-year-

olds on the same basis.

Pilot schemes will start in selected schools next spring to test the new system, which could see nearly a tenth of funding for sixth-forms being linked to

exam results. The pilots, announced yesterday in a Government White Paper on education and training for 14- to 19-year-olds, are the first stage of a drive by min-isters to subject sixth-forms to the same funding rules as further education colleges. Colleges receive 8 per cent of their funding according to results.

The White Paper, launched by the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Gillian Shephard, also includes plans for learning credits for all young people aged 16 to 21, entitling them to further education, training and careers guidance. However, ministers have stepped back from introducing vouchers for sixthformers – a move widely predicted last summer.

Vouchers, with a fixed cash value would be difficult to introduce while schools, colleges and work-based training are all funded in different ways and at different rates. Ministers are also understood to be concerned that a wholesale move to a competitive market place would see large amounts of cash

But the proposals, which would also see work-based training for young people funded on the same basis as colleges. leave the way open for a possible move to vouchers in future.

There is a danger that learning credits will not operate in the interests of students'

Under the proposals, learning credits would entitle all 16to 21-year-olds to education or training up to a level three qualification - the level of a junior supervisor.

The Government claims the credits, to come into force in September 1998 and likely to take the form of a smart card, will make young people more aware of their learning options and encourage more to continue education after 16.
The White Paper, Learning

To Compete, also sets out otha lifeline to disaffected young people in danger of dropping out of education. They include encouraging local partnership between schools, colleges and employers to give 14- to 19-year-olds more opportunity for vocational learning.

of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "There is a distinct danger that learning credits will become vouchers which will not operate in the in-terests of individual students. Likewise the funding to underpin the 14-19 age group is quite inadequate and the Government's drive to introduce a competitive element into the funding for those in sixth-forms will inevitably lead to funding on the basis of the lowest comng del

stent

Labour yesterday accused the Conservatives of stealing its clothes over schemes to help young drop-outs.

Small businessmen and oth-

mon denominator."

er adults will be able to buy into a new University for Industry under Labour, the party will say today, writes Fran Abrams. Private education agencies, universities and colleges would draw up courses which would be available on a specially designated digital television channel. There would also be new learning centres in shopping malls.



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Warm reception for greenhouse across the Thames

David Lister Arts News Editor

A bridge covered with gardens is the public's overwhelming choice for a new river crossing

Forty thousand visitors to the Royal Academy's "Living Bridges" exhibition voted for their preferred "inhabited bridge" for the Thames from the seven on show.

Key features of the others included: a network of paths and cates; two hotels and a leisure centre; a park; two towers of residential accommodation: and cantilevered accommodation.

A panel headed by John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, has already chosen joint winners of a competition to build the Thames's first inhabited bridge - the architects Antoine Grum-bach and Associates of France for the Garden Bridge, and Zaha M Hadid of the UK for a cantilevered bridge with

pedestrian walkways. The public clearly preferred Grumbach's Garden Bridge, which won 14.995 votes, according to figures released yesterday by the Royal Academy. Hadid came only fourth in the public phoice girls 1624 mater. public choice, with 4,634 votes. The Garden Bridge has three

On the south side there is the "World's Culture Greenhouse", a vast covered public space protecting plants and tropical trees and providing space for restaurants, shops and flexible spaces for live



An idea that blossomed: The Garden Bridge, the public's favourite for an inhabited crossing and joint favourite among a panel of experts

concerts and other public activities. Access is gained by interior and exterior staircases, lifts and escalators.

At water level, on either side of the greenhouse, there are two walks which provide links between the bridge and the riverbank. Hedges running at right angles to the bridge's axis provide divisions between the shops' and restaurants' situa-

tions on the bridge. . The hanging Gardens Towers which support the cables for the suspended portion of the bridge contain a hotel and apartments,

spaces conceived as green-houses within and at the top of British architect Ian Ritchie tems of Britain for the People's numbers of schoolchildren vis-

for a bridge with a park and bowling alleys and a cinema be-neath it. Third with 4,741 votes The Garden Bridge's 14,995 rants. votes were 37 per cent of the votes cast. Second with 7,483 was the design by Future Sys-

space for shops and restau-

The Garden Bridge proved

Bridge, a pedestrian bridge with titing the exhibition. They and many adults were taken with the idea of watching concerts and

Royal Academy said yesterday that developers were showing considerable interest and it hopes to announce a firm proposal in January.

Meanwhile, there will be an announcement today that the architect Sir Norman Foster and the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro have won the international competition to design the £8m Millennium Bridge linking St Paul's Cathedral and Bankside. That will be a stand-alone pedestrian bridge, which will be partly funded by the Millenni-

um Commission.

The "Living Bridges" exhibition at the Royal Academy has been visited by more than 95,000 people so far, making it the most successful architectur exhibition ever held in Britain. It has been extended to run until 5 January.

Visitors can continue to register their opinions on the designs but only a major change in the voting pattern would oust the Garden Bridge from the

top of the public's choice.

The exhibition is supported new bridges by 2000. Though an inhabited bridge resulting from the Royal Academy exhibition by the Corporation of London is yet to receive a firm go-ahead from a developer, the and Général Des Eaux, in as-

Minister denies food bug delay as tenth victim dies

Steve Boggan Chief Reporter

Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, yesterday de-fended the handling of Britain's worst E. coli food-poisoning outbreak as it claimed its 10th

Addressing MPs at a meeting of the Commons Scottish Grand Committee in Hamilton, he denied that his department had delayed releasing a list of outlets supplied with poten-tially deadly meat by John Barr, the Lanarkshire butcher at the

centre of the controversy. By yesterday morning, 388 suspected cases of E. coli poisoning had been reported, with 37 people still in hospital. The 10th person to die was an 87year-old woman from Bonny-

'It has become clear that cooked meat did leave Mr Barr's premises that day'

bridge who bought meat products from a store in the

Forth Valley area supplied by Mr Barr's shop in Wishaw.
Environmental health officials in Lanarkshire have faced criticism for not releasing a warning list of stores supplied by Mr Baπ as soon as his shop was identified as a possible source on 22 November.

That list was held back for several days, until the shop was confirmed as the most likely

Yesterday, Mr Forsyth said the list was not held back by his department, but he did not say who was responsible for the de-

WATERPROOF WINDPROOF BREATHABLE SYMPATEX HOUSE OF FRASER lay. He rejected continued Labour calls for a public inquiry. arguing that the fatal accident inquiry already opened would have wide-ranging powers.

Mr Forsyth told the MPs

that all the epidemiological evidence suggested that there was only one source of the outbreak. J Barr and Son was identified as the most likely source on Priday 22 November and Mr Barr was warned that evening not to sell any cooked meat; that warning was repeated again the next

morning.
"It has, however, become clear that cooked meat did leave Mr Barr's premises that day," he added. "The circum-stances in which this meat was supplied are being investigated

Providing a detailed timetable of how the epidemic was handled. Mr Forsyth said that an outbreak-control team met for the first time at 11am on Saturday 23. By that afternoon, the press had been alerted, doctors had been notified and a helding d been notified and a helpline had been set up, he said. On 24 and 25 November, of-

ficials from his office liaised with local health official and, on 26 November they issued a Scotland-wide food hazard warning notice. A second warning notice was issued on 28 No-

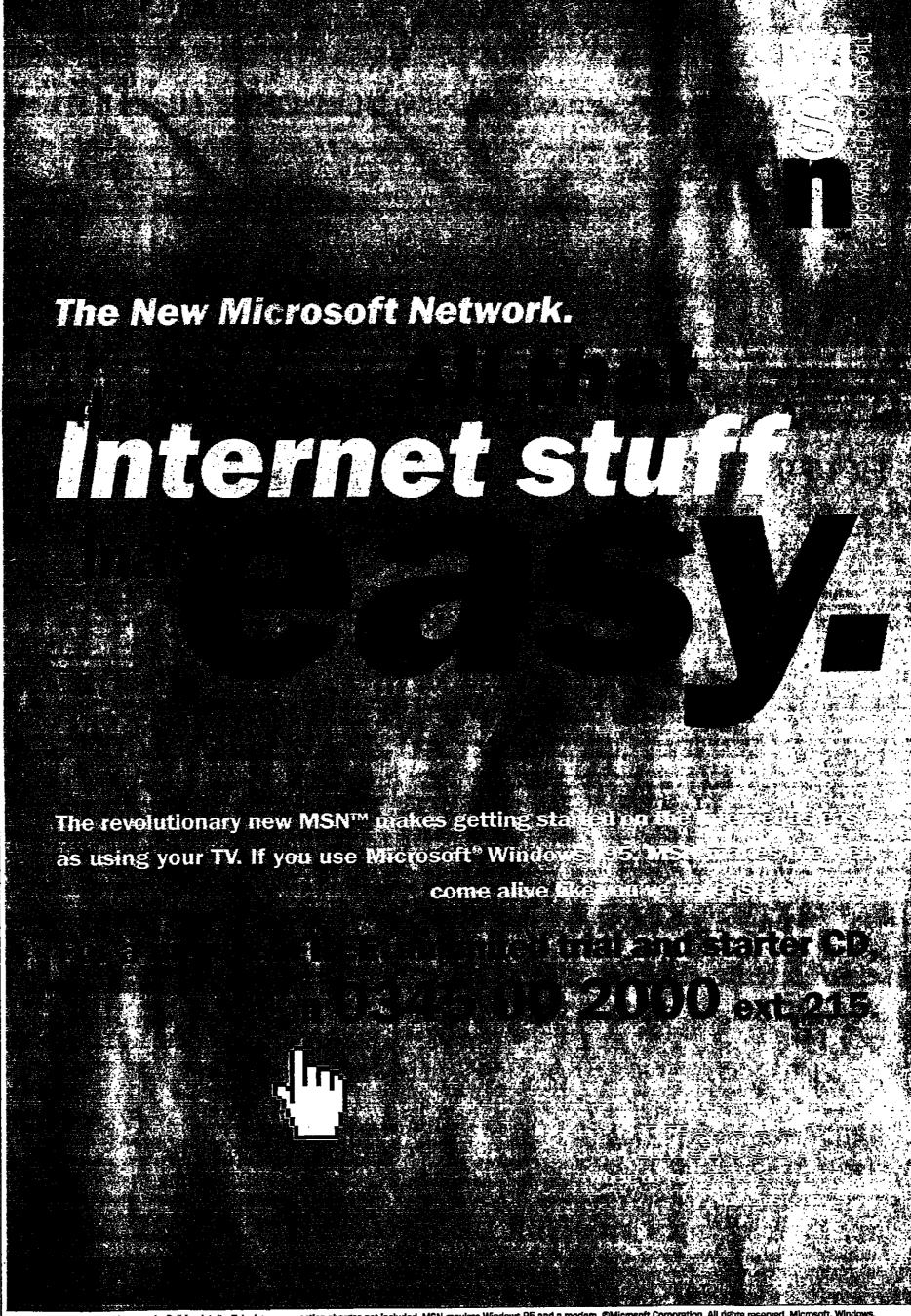
"It is still possible that a small number of patients may yet come forward with symptoms, and we must all exercise care with food preparation and hy-giene," Mr Forsyth said. However, according to the chief medical officer for Scotland, the outbreak peaked between 20 and 26 November. Since then, the number of new cases reported had fallen daily, Mr

For 11 said. Mr Forsyth concluded that responsibility for food-safety enforcement lay with local au-thorities and, although he had powers to assume such responsibility, "at no stage in this outbreak had it been suggested that such a move would

be appropriate". George Robertson, the shadow Secretary of State for Scot-land, was unimpressed. "There is still confusion and still worry and still anxiety," he said.

There is a real and genuine

anger about how this infection came about and about some as-pects of how it was handled." Archy Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrat Chief Whip, urged Mr Forsyth to reconsider holding a public inquiry, which Mr. Kirkwood said was likely to produce better preventive mea-



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Millennium fund short as deadline arrives

Christian Wolman Westminster Correspondent

The company organising the Millennium exhibition at Greenwich is still short of around £100m in firm sponsorship pledges, though it must get the go-ahead tomorrow if the

project is to be ready in time. Millennium Central needs to raise £150m in sponsorship to match the £200m being put in from lottery funds by the Millennium Commission in order to pay for the exhibition, due to open in autumn 1999.

be satisfied that private funds are available before giving the

final go-ahead. Millennium Central is also seeking government guarantees of its borrowing but this is provoking a row between the main political parties.

Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister and a member of the commission, is keen to press ahead regardless of any financial obstacles. He has suggested that the way round any funding difficulties is to allow

But a meeting of the comthe commission to continue in all the contractors will know existence beyond the end of 2000, retaining its income of 20 per cent of lottery funds for as long as is needed to pay off any

> that it may well be in govern-ment when the final bills need to be paid, refuses to give carte blanche to any over-spending. Nick Rayusford, housing spokesman and Greenwich MP, is a firm supporter of the exhibition but said: "This is not the way to go about a major pro-

that and try to put in for as much money as they can get out

Dr Jack Cunningham. Labour's heritage spokesman, Labour, however, conscious said: "While we support the idea of the project, we want to see a proper budget before com-

Barry Hartup, the chief ex-ecutive of Millennium Central, said: "You cannot expect com-panies to promise all the monev before they know what the exhibition is. I am confident they will come forward in the end."

tine's heavy-handed approach early on, when he tried to arm twist major companies into supporting the exhibition and alienated many potential donors

amid complaints of blackmail. The overall budget of the exhibition has been estimated at £700m, with ticket sales being estimated at £350m in addition to the £200m of lottery money and £150m sponsorship.

With 13.5 million people expected to attend over the 15-month opening period, from

for a family of four.

Mr Hartup, insists that it will not be difficult to attract such numbers. "The ideas coming from January Language Langua ing from Imagination [the company designing the exhibition] are absolutely amazing and will attract everyone from children and their parents to grannies and disabled people," he said. The exhibition, in a massive dome, will have the theme of

While clearing contamina-

September 1999 to December 1000 on the site, formerly a gas-1000, ticket charges will range works, has been progressing well, there are doubts about the timetable.

Ministers have admitted that the design work was delayed by the holding of a competition which in retrospect Greenwich always seemed destined to win and which now seems to have

been given the full go-ahead on /ednesday," he said.
"There is no slack." Indeed,

Mr Hartup admitted that the schedule was tight. "We need to understand that we have

Millennium Central still his no permanent staft and Ma Hartup is on a temporary secondment from the Welsh Development Agency which runs out at the end of this plice inits waw

The future of the site also renains undecided. Mr Raynsford has been pressing to ensure that the dome has a 61-year life. "It could then be used for

sports facilities and with a new Wembley being linked by the Jubilee Line extension, it could be the basis of an Olympic bid, he said.



Most people thought he was just a harmless eccentric, not a disaster waiting to happen

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Horrett Campbell, yesterday convicted of seven attempted murders after a machete aftack on an infants school, had begun acting strangely after the death of his mother, walking the streets and muttering to himself

Although most people thought he was a harmless eccentric, the question remains: Was he a disaster waiting to hap-

The question is raised, in retrospect, by the court report submitted prior to the jail sentence he received in an earlier case. A medical assessment might be helpful, the report had suggested to Wolverhampton's stipendiary magistrate, Ian Gillespie, who yesterday strongly defend-

ed his decision not to seek one. On that occasion, in November last year, he had been charged with affray and possession of an offensive weapon - a machete strapped to his leg under his trousers. He had also been driving his beaten-up car. which he had painted lilac, without a licence, insurance or MOT. Nurse who bore machete blows to save children vows to return to work



Lisa Potts: Determined to return to same nursery

He was convicted of affray and

the other charges after a strug-

gle with officers. He had no pre-

vious convictions though he was

jailed for the non-payment of a civil debt in 1988. More

bizarrely, he was cautioned for

arson last year after he torched

his own car. During the pre-sen-

tence assessment he said he

had heard "voices" in his head

Nursery nurse Lisa Potts praised by the judge for her heroism in saving the children of St Luke's School from Horrett Campbell's onslaught - is adament that she will return to

Miss Potts, 21, still underoing occupational therapy for severed hand tendons she suffered, grabbed children from the reach of Campbell or hid them beneath her skirts, hearing the brunt of his brutal blows berself.

Mr Justice Sedley told the jury that he would be recom-

telling him to do it. He had heard voices in his head "whispering to

him" for the previous two years.

The report described him as pos-

sibly suffering from a medical

condition but as reluctant to con-

in his council flat in the Villiers

House tower block overlooking

the infants school playground,

Single, he lived an isolated life

sult his doctor.

mending some formal recognition for Miss Potts's bravery. "You may be thinking that Lisa Potts deserves more formal recognition. I think so too. I shall be talking what steps I can

to ensure that is considered." Miss Potts's courage was also by Mr Richard Wakerley QC, prosecuting, "You may well feel astonished by the courage of that young girl, as she could so easily have shut that door, gone further inside to find help. She completely, you may think, disregarded her

own safety. But for her action

with few friends and limited

contact with family. After work-

ing as a painter and decorator

and then a toolmaker, he had

been without a job for six years.

He confided that when his mother Rebekah died in Jamaica in

1992 he could not afford to at-

tend the funeral. That had left

him, the report said, with a

"deep sense of regret".

this tragedy could have been so But Miss Potts, who also suffered deep stab wounds to her

back and a broken arm. said she was overwhelmed by the support and good wishes she received after the attack. "I don't feel brave," she added. "I don't think I'm an angel - I was just doing my job. I

It was the right thing to do. I don't think I'm special." In a recent interview, Miss

was just protecting the children.

Potts who had worked at St. Luke's for 18 months, told

what was inside his head."

His 84-year-old father, Isaac

A family friend known as Buzz said: "He took her death very badly. He would walk around with a glazed look in his eyes and I must admit he would scare you. He'd act like a kid jumping out in front of people and scaring them and then laughing. But you never knew

how she was coming to terms with Campbell's savagery. "It has been pretty hard for me. Some days I am up in the air, but other days I am pretty laid down." she said.

"Sometimes, particularly when I stand up in front of a lot of people, because it's such a happy occasion I think of someone coming in and killing me because the day the attack happened was happy. But I went into school recently and one child said, 'We've missed you, Miss Potts' - and that's what it's all about."

drawn in black ink on either side.

Campbell, a devout Christian, lives in the All Saints area of Wolverhampton. His sister Cheryl lives in the United States. On the day of the attack, surveillance cameras pictured him going into Villiers House wearing a pork-pie hat with three-inch screws protruding from the side and German Iron Cross medals

Witnesses told police he had been wearing the hat for weeks. The court report said that without the benefit of a medical opinion it was difficult to take the essment further – but prison would aggravate what seemed to be an emerging medical problem and would prevent him receiving treatment, expose him to so-

damaging effect. Earlier this year, his extraordinary state of mind prompted him to stick up a newspaper cutting about Thomas Hamilton's Dunblane massacre on his bedroom wall. I ater, he added a cutting about Michael Bryant, who killed 35 people in Tasmania. But it was not until after he had attacked the children that he was diagnosed as a paranoid schiz-

phisticated criminals and have a

Offenders judged to be a risk because of suspected mental illness can be bailed, remanded or sectioned for 28 days while probation officers arrange psychiatric assessments.

But courts are under increasing financial pressure not to adjourn cases but process them

British dancers not good enough : for Swan Lake

David Lister Arts News Editor

The artistic director the English National Ballet vesterday accused British ballet schools of producing second-rate dancers. Derek Deane said that he had no option but to recruit foreign talent for the largest production of Swun Luke ever staged in this country.

The twelve performances to be presented in The Round at the Royal Albert Hall next May, are expected to attract over 50,000 people.

The 120-strong company will be joined by 75 swans, fire-eaters, jugglers and acrobats. The cast will include the prima ballerina of the

Kirov, Altynai Asylmuratova. Mr Deane is currently rechoreographing Swan Lake for the production and said that he would have to recruit 60 extra dancers to augment his company. He expected many of them to come from abroad, "I doubt I will be able to find 60 extra dancers in Britain," he said. "There is a lack of good English dancers. yet there are literally

hundreds of dance schools.

I find with the English National Ballet that we are having to repair bodies that have been trained badly. It is a very sad situation in dance in this country, from the very

top to the very bottom."
The English National
Ballet took 60 per cent of its dancers from overseas, said Mr Deane. "The method of training and the lack of knowledge about dancers' bodies today is a big problem. I have to say that the standard of dancers who come to audition for my

company is low." Mr Deane found support from Patrick Deuchar, chief executive of the Royal Albert Hall. He said: "What is needed is a whole hearted overhaul of the system. Here is an art form dying through lack of proper commitment."

Last month, the condition of dancers was criticised in a report entitled Fit to Dance? The report concluded that many of Britain's professional dancers were so unfit that they sustained more injuries than players of contact sports such as rugby and boxing.

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news

Police seek limits on big awards by juries

Patricia Wynn Davies

Scotland Yard launched an unprecedented bid yesterday to limit punitive damages awards by civil juries to victims of

wrongdoing by officers. Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, is appealing two of nine cases where juries have made heavy awards of "exemplary" damages

not go

David Lister

to punish police misconduct.
David Pannick QC, for the police, told Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls and two other Court of Appeal judges that a £220,000 record award to Kenneth Hsu, a hairdresser, and £51,000 to Claudette Thompson, a mother of three, were "plain-ly unreasonable and excessive".

Mr Hsu, 32, was awarded £20,000 for assault, false imprisonment and his injuries, and £200,000 in exemplary damages, after being held in a neck lock, punched and kicked and wrongfully arrested following a dispute with a lodger in July 1992. After spending an hour at the police station he was left to make his way home penniless and barefoot. He has made two unsuccessful approaches to the Police Complaints Authority to investigate

the three constables involved. Ms Thompson, 30, had re-fused to take a drink-drive breath test and was thrown into a cell, jumped on, smothered and had hair pulled out after a sergeant suggested that officers "chuck her in the bin". When she was acquitted of a tective John Donald caught, by a BBC television team, selling police secrets to the underworld. Donald was jailed in June.

jury awarded her £1,500 for the ult and her injuries and assault and her injuries and £50,000 in exemplary damages. In a cross-appeal, she is claiming the £1,500 was too low.

Of the hundreds of officers involved in cases brought against Scotland Yard over the past three years, costing the force £4.5m, only nine have been disciplined. Damages awarded against the police have increased

eightfold over the past decade. Sir Paul has blamed plaintiff lawyers for targetting the police as a "soft touch", and juries for handing down "daft" awards. He hopes the appeal court will draw up guidelines setting damages at a far lower level. Win or lose, he

will face renewed pressure to tighten operational discipline. Mr Pannick told the court yesterday that the juries in the two cases had not been properly directed on exemplary damages by the judges. They had not been told to award the "minimum sum necessary" and had awarded "manifestly excessive" sums which should be cut to £10,000 each, he said. In addition, the £20,000 awarded for Mr Hsu's injuries and false imprisonment should be cut to £5,000, Mr Pannick said.

The hearing continues. ■ Scotland Yard may carry out sting operations against its own officers in a £2m-a-year crackdown on corruption in the Metropolitan Police, it announced yesterday.

The crackdown comes after the Metropolitan police suffered the embarrassment of seeing regional crime squad deThe teddy that bears a £34,000 price tag



Bear necessity: Teddy Edward, star of the Watch with Mother television series, who was yesterday bought for £34,500, along with photographs of his adventures, at Christie's in London by Yoshihiro Sekiguchi, 49, president of the Japanese Sun Arrow toy company, to take take pride of place in a toy museum Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Children who abuse children

Glenda Cooper

Geoff held his hand out in greeting shyly. He looked what he was - a nice, middle-class boy. Aged 16, he came from a smart suburb of Sunderland and had never been in trouble

He came to the authorities' attention when five-year-old Beth told her mother that he had sexually abused her. Geoff's parents reacted with disbelief. After the case went to court and Geoff was given a one-year supervision order they wanted to see the abuse as a "one off" which was best forgotten.

Geoff's is not a rare case. In

1993 almost a fifth of offenders see this as an abnormal event found guilty or cautioned for sexual offences in England and Wales were under 18. That inchided 300 children aged 10 to 13 and 1,200 aged 14 to 17.

Conviction rates for sexual offending are low and it is likely many offences are not reported, so the rate may be considerably higher than the statistics

There are few services to deal with juvenile abusers however. One is the Kaleidoscope project in Sunderland, a centre run by the NSPCC and Barnados which has just celebrated its second birthday.

"Geoff's parents wanted to the child's reactions from an-

which would not be repeated," said Anne Blues, Kaleidoscope's child protection manager. "But that kind of behaviour doesn't go away.

tential to change, this potential can be maximised with children and young people." There are no quick solu-

tions. Much time is spent getting the youngster to face the fact of their actions. Around eight to 12 one-hour sessions will be spent assessing the child. One counsellor will talk to the child about what actually happened while another monitors

At the NSPCC's Coventry Project for young abusers Richard Gist, the area children's service manager, says the important thing is to work Whilst everyone has the poclosely with parents as well as the child. After assessing the child they work out a relapse prevention scheme so that the child learns to avoid situations

where he might abuse again. The numbers speak for them-selves. Of the 75 children the Coventry Project has counselled in the past four years, only three have reoffended. ☐ Geoff and Beth's names have been changed to protect their

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Pariah, or plain misunderstood?

Indonesia's plea over East Timor

Richard Lloyd Parry

"We are astounded. We remain completely nonplussed. Indonesian foreign minister, Ali Alatas. "It's a wrong choice, a misguided choice, an ill-informed choice ... This is the trouble with East Timor - the moment something remotely negative happens it is immediately blown up, it is immediately exploited abroad ... it can be

very, very frustrating."
It seems unbelievable, but, on the question of East Timor, the Indonesian government feels sorry for itself. Since it invaded the former Portuguese col-ony in 1975, around 200,000 people have died as a result of amine, disease and bullets.

Torture, murder and detention without trial of opponents of the occupation are widespread. Despite resolutions in the United Nations which still regards Portugal as the administering power. Mr Alatas and President Suharto consistently reject the possibility of a referendum to decide the territory's future. But they still feel hard ments is drowned out by outdone by. Today, with the pre-sentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to the East Timorese advocates, Bishop Carlos Belo and Jose Ramos-Horta, they feel harder done by than ever.

In this, according to foreign diplomats, lies both a danger and perhaps an opportunity. Oninion is divided in Jakarta on

make peace in East Timor less likely, by driving the government into a corner, or whether it could open the way to resolution of the 21-year old conflict.

However irrational, there are reasons for the self-pity. Accounts of East Timor give the impression of Indonesia as a monolithically evil force, wholly indifferent to world opinion. But, for all its brutality, it is not a Burma or a Nigeria. In other areas, President Suharto's foreign policy has been successful,

In Third World capitals, Indonesia is respected as a pioneer leader of the Non-Aligned Movement. Among the mem-bers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), President Suharto is regarded as an unofficial figurehead. Indonesia's troops participated in the UN peace-keeping force in Cambodia, and its diplomats played an important role in the successful peace negotiations between the Philippines government and the Muslim insurgency in Mindanao.

But internationally, recognition of these quiet achieverage over Indonesia's human rights record. For large sections of the educated world, the suppression of East Timor is the only thing they know about In-donesia. The image of a butcher nation undoubtedly deters in-

ternational aid and investment. The subject bedevils diplomatic talks with the West - the



No way out: East Timorese men seeking sanctury at the US embassy in Jakarta. Thousands have sought asylum since 1975 Photograph:Popperfoto/Reuter

Indonesia, recently put out a statement lamenting its "irritant" effect on relations with the European Union. The regime feels let down by what it sees as a hypocritical approach to East Timor by Western governments. In 1975, Britain, France and the US voted for UN resolutions condemning the invasion, but ever since they have stepped up their arms trade with Jakarta.

Later this month, the seventh in a series of talks between Indonesia and Portugal will take place under the auspices of the UN Secretary General. The previous meetings have got no-where: the pessimistic view of the Nobel Peace Prize award is that it will further humiliate and enrage the Indonesians, destroying the delicate face-saving

ing settlement. To complicate cently, as has the idea of medithings further, the subject of Indonesia has been a hot potato in Washington since allegations that the Clinton campaign accepted questionable donations from Indonesian companies.

But some diplomats in Jakarta see positive signs. Several discreet initiatives to grant the Timorese a measure of auton-

ation by a third country. President Clinton has already indicated that Asia is one of the priorities of his second term foreign policy; there is speculation the administration may distract Congressional attention from the campaign donations with an aggressive attempt to broker a

ideas. Like much else in Indonesia, the problem may have to

President Suharto himself, who

has accepted none of these

wait until after the 77-year-old president has gone. "It's been going on now for 21 years, longer than anyone expected," says one foreign diplomat. mething has to give sooner or later. They know that the sit-

> respect for human rights. brawl between Rangoon Insti-

Incredible journey leads family to freedom

Brian Williams

Reuters

Seoul — A family of 17, the largest group of North Korean defectors since the Korean War, arrived in Seoul yesterday, six

young children included a security guard whose job was to stop such defections through the wild and remote North Korea-China border.

Their incredible journey was financed by relatives in the Unit-

on 26 October and covered the length of China.

flight to freedom to Kimpo Aired in the war. Kim Kyong ho, now missing half his left index

The band passed from one safe house to another among two million ethnic Koreans in China, posing as a group of travelling rural labourers and occasionally working in the fields. On

tal, Seoul When Kim Kyong-ho, the 62-

year-old patriarch of the group, met the brother he had not seen since the height of the 1950-53 Korean War, he exclaimed and said the pair were separat- rumours he was in the US. But

finger, ended up in North Korea as confusion reigned at the end of the conflict. He told how he was persecuted there for his South Korean roots.

Kim Kyong-tae said: "I didn't loudly: "Older Brother." Kim know if my younger brother Kyong-tae, 70, embraced him was dead or alive. I'd heard

The only person missing was Choi Yong-do, the father of Kim's wife, Choi Hyon-sil From New York, he organised the money for the group to bribe their way through China and into

when I saw pictures of the family ... I knew that it was him."

Hong Kong. The escape was a propagan-da coup for South Korea, but of billions of dollars.

there was nervous speculation about how Seoul would cope if the defection was the start of a refugee surge from impoverished North Korea, where floods have caused a year-long famine. An uncontrolled refuged exodus is part of a nightmare scenario for Seoul, which would be left to pick up the pieces at a cost.

Rangoon fails to snuff out • protests

Associated Press

Rangoon - Burmese police chased students through the streets here yesterday as the military government closed universities after the largest demonstration of civil untest since 1988. Military intelligence accused the Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Sun Kyi of inciting the unrest and confined her to her home. "This is absolutely ridiculous," she said by telephone. "They (the government) are never prepared to accept their responsibilities. This conspiracy theory is totally out

After a march and sit-in on Friday, police scaled roads to all three campuses of Rangoon University, while riot police blockaded Rangoon Institute of Technology. But a demonstra-tion erupted in front of one of the campuses and at middaystudents marched towards the US embassy in central Rangoon, holding portraits of Aung San. the independence leader and fa-

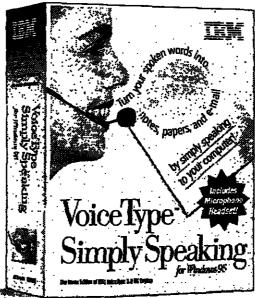
ther of Ms Suu Kyi. Riot police blocked the marchers' route and professors appealed to the protesters, who had sat in the road, to turn back. When the students rose and again walked towards the embassy the police marched at them and the students fled. As the police pursued, the students stoned them. About 10 troop carriers with 30 to 40 sol-

diers aboard joined the chase. The authorities had hoped that closing the universities would choke protests following a mêlée between police and 1,500 students armed with sticks and stones on Saturday morning. The police were breaking up a sit-in demanding an end to police brutality, the right to form a student union, freedom and

The confrontation was the strongest show of civil dissent since 1988, when a teashop tute of Technology students and the son of an official set off an uprising which was crushed by the military. More than 3,000 protesters were shot, thousands were jailed and all universities and high schools were closed for three years.



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to order directly or for the name of your negrest outlet; alternatively connect with our internet site at www.voicetype.ibm.com It makes a Christmas present that will have everyone talking.

Kohl and Chirac gloss over divisions on EU

Germany and France yesterday strained to maintain a common front ahead of Friday's European Union summit, producing a flurry of initiatives on the reform of the community, and a deafening silence on the issues that still divide them.

Nuremberg, their day-long con-sultations with German opposite numbers failed to resolve the simmering row over the fate of Europe's new currency. A 10page letter signed by Chancel-lor Helmut Kohl and President Jacques Chirac, to be delivered to Dublin on the eve of the summit, made no mention of monetary union, and remained vague over the reform of the

EU's decision-making process. To the very end, President Chirac insisted Europe's economy should not be subordinated to a bank based in Frankfurt, built on the German model. While conceding that the new monetary institution should be independent, the French President said that there should also be "a corresponding authority vested with political power opposite the central bank".

France, as well as some opposition politicians in Germany, are worried that the unelected technocrats employed by the galistic German solution that

Leaders fail to agree on details of stability pact, reports **Imre Karacs** in Nuremberg

emments with stiff fines, and cv-

tabled at Thursday's meeting of European finance ministers in

Brussels, but it is unlikely to ad-

dress the question of who

should decide when such fines

are to be levied. The Germans make allowances for a country

whose economy has shrunk by

2 per cent in a given year, but

despite strenuous efforts.

France never earned that dis-

To make up for their dis-agreements, the two countries

tinction in the past 50 years.

promise of sorts will be

idently left empty-handed.

Although almost the entire
French cabinet made the trip to

Son of Bundesbank, to be born in 1999, would dictate the econ-Son of Bundesbank, to be born would punish profligate govomy of the continent, rendering national governments superfluous. Germany has taken some French objections on board, but the compromise formula fudges the question of accountability. There will be a council consisting of member governments, though its exact role is yet to be spelt out.

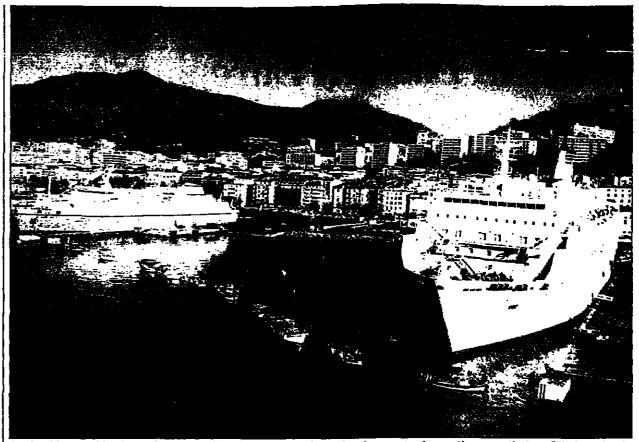
There is still no meeting of minds, however, on the most divisive proposal: the "stability pact", or, in French parlance, the "stability council". "The stabil-ity pact should secure the stability the future currency," Mr Kohl parroted yesterday. "Neither France nor Germany desires a soft money," he said. In response to accusations emanating

from Downing Street, that France and Germany wanted a "soft currency", the Chancellor varned: "I advise everybody to do their homework."

President Chirac came to Nuremberg opposing the le-

which they could concur. The joint letter emphasises France and Germany's commitment to a Europe-wide police authority to fight organised crime. There "should be" more co-operation among the judiciary authorities of member states, and the battle against crime should be rejoined by a continent-wide agency, Europol. This would imply co-ordination of immigration policy and police work, a move

Britain strongly opposes. The Franco-German vision is clearest about defence and for-Council determines the principles and general orientation of foreign policy and of common security policy," the letter states. This body, consisting of ministers of member states, "could" also define the priorities, "which implies that member states abstain from initiatives that are contrary" to trumpeted a list of proposals on these common priorities.



Cordon blow: Fishing boats blocking a ferry in Ajaccio harbour, Corsica, yesterday on the seventh day of their action to force the government to lower their taxes. The blockade has paralysed passenger and freight traffic

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France pays spy bill

Europe's ambitions in the spy satellite business span out of pleaded penury and left France

Whilst pledging their "commitment" to Helios II and Horus, the eyes in the sky which are designed to loosen Europe's dependence on US technology, Germany's involvement will be confined to

"In order to guarantee the current schedule, France will launch the Helios II project. and Germany will rejoin it as soon as the necessary conditions are met," the two countries proclaimed in a joint statement. That moment, added the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, would come when the German budget regained its equilibrium. However, Mr Kohl declined to specify a date for his country's participation.

Protests fall on deaf ears in Belgrade

More angry, more noisy and more frustrated than ever, prodemocracy demonstrators began a fourth week of street protests in Belgrade yesterday, struggling to find a way of extracting concessions from Serbia's master of political conjuring tricks, President Slobodan Milosevic

Impatient at their lack of progress but resolved not to resort to violence, thousands of students and other supporters of the Zajedno (Together) opposition movement gave vent to their disgust as they denounced the latest refusal of the Socialist authorities to recognise opposition victories in last month's municipal elections.

"[Milosevic] is playing tricks on the Serbian people, just as he has been doing for the last six or seven years," said Dragan Presic, an opposition supporter. Belgrade students turned out in extra numbers to express outrage at police treatment of

Dejan Bulatovic, a student demonstrator who was arrested after displaying an effigy of Mr Milosevic in prison clothes. "He was given the worst Gestapo treatment. His nose was broken, he was beaten on the chest, head and stomach, and he was given help only after he fainted," student leaders said.

Despite 22 days of antigovernment demonstrations on a scale unseen in Serbia since 1945, Mr Milosevic seems confident he can outwit the opposition and ignore rising criticism from the West. A rare insight into his attitude to the opposition was provided by Kati Marton, an American campaigner

for media freedoms who met the

President last weekend. Ms Marton, the wife of Richard Holbrooke, who brokered last year's peace deal in Bosnia, said she had asked Mr Milosevic to sign a manifesto promising to end the government's abuses of media liberties.
"I handed him that manifesto, which he proceeded to tear up, she said. "I don't think he's

in a mood to give up, not at all."

Small Serbian towns and most rural areas bave been kept in the dark about the crisis thanks to the government's control of state television. A few people who arrived in Belgrade sterday from the countryside said they were astonished to see tens of thousands of marchers.

Only two cities, Novi Sad in northern Serbia and Nis in the south, have experienced similar unrest. Demonstrators in Nis, for years a Socialist stronghold, hurled a television from the top of a building to symbolise their contempt for the official media.

The opposition still hopes that with the help of Western pressure and continuing protests in Belgrade, they may win control of the capital's municipalcouncil. Even the Serbian Supreme Court's decision to award the local elections to the Socialists is subject to appeal at federal level in rump Yugoslavia.

Zagreb (AP) — The Croatian President, Franjo Tudjunan. awarded a medal at the weekend to General Tihomir Blaskic, a Bosnian Croat indicted as a war-crimes suspect, a Bosnian Croat spokesman said yesterday.

The general is in custody awaiting trial in The Hague over the massacre of Muslims by Crost troops under his command in central Bosnia.



Student Dejan Bulatovic with the effigy of President Milosevic Photograph: AFP which led to his 'Gestapo' beating

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international

Nato to rule out nuclear arms in Eastern Europe

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

Nato is today expected to confirm it has no intention of deploying nuclear weapons on the territory of new members in Central and Eastern Europe.

Foreign ministers of Nato's 16 nations, who make up the alliance's North Atlantic Council (NAC), meet in Brussels this morning to discuss the contentious issue of alliance enlargement. Details of next year's special summit, at which invitations to East European states to join the alliance will be issued, are to be announced.

The summit, to be attended by heads of government, originally scheduled for May or June, is now expected to take place next July. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary and Slovenia are expected to receive invitations to join Nato on or before its 50th anniversary

Tomorrow the ministers will be joined by Russia's Foreign

Minister, Vitaly Primakov, in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) for a "sinteen-plus-one" meeting, partly aimed at reassuring Russia that en-largement will not create a new Iron Curtain across Europe. Iron Curtain across Europe.

The communiqué from the meeting is expected to reassure Moscow that expansion will not mean moving nuclear weapons closer to Russia's borders. With short-range nuclear missiles and artillery withdrawn from Nato Europe, and the in-creased reliance of Britain, France and the US on longrange submarine- and airlaunched nuclear weapons, there is no military reason to put nuclear weapons into the territory of new members. Neverss, the issue remains a symbolic and emotive one.

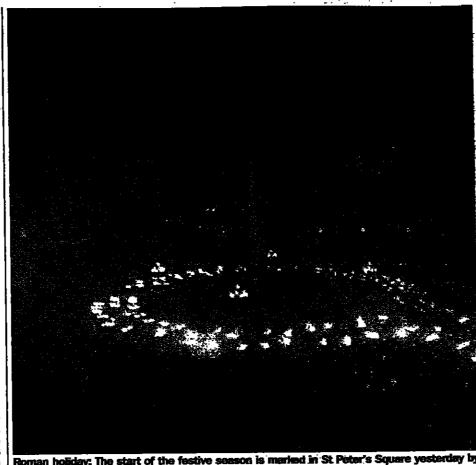
Diplomatic sources yesterday said the arrangements for next year's special summit had yet to be finalised. It is uncertain whether Russia's President. Boris Yeltsin, will be invited, and where it is to be held. Normal-

ly it would be in Brussels but, given its high profile, it could be held elsewhere - possibly in Madrid, to underline Spain's full accession to Nato. Nato sources yesterday said it would be "this side of the Atlantic" -

ruling out Washington.
The Nato meeting will rub-ber-stamp the decisions an-nounced at the London conference on the former Yugoslavia last week, confirming that a 31,000-strong Stabilisa-tion Force - S-For - will take over from the Peace Implementation Force - I-For - on 20 December, and that the force will stay for 18 months.

Additional issues being dis-

cussed today are other developments in Nato-Russian relations and the linked question of Nato's reorganisation. The meeting is expected to concentrate on Nato's southern European command, based in Naples and now held by a US admiral, Joe Lopez. France has said it wants a "European" to



Roman holiday: The start of the festive season is marked in

Season of good will and cream of tartar

ROME DAYS

There is nothing like the approach of Christmas to remind the hapless foreign correspondent that he is, like it or not, part of that amorphous, visceral-minded, thoroughly unpleas-ant little group of culturally transplanted residents known as the Ex-Pat Set.

The evidence piles up in my mailbox every day: the invitations to mince-pie afternoons, seasonal diplomatic cocktail parties and end-of-year diparties and end-of-year diparties the invitable true-blue ners; the inevitable true-blue British carol services and Christmas charity bashes; and, last but by no means lightest, the catalogues of goodies from the mother country that wing their way mysteriously to my door from some mail-order service in deepest darkest Oxfordshire.

It is extraordinary what lengths some people will go to to create a sense of home during this season of goodwill. Someone has valiantly flown out the entire choir of St Olave's, Orpington, to blast the popish Roman night with a roll-call of what I am assured by the invitation to be my "favourite carols". Singing along is not merely encouraged, it is "expected". Oh dear.

The carol singer might respond favourably to the fine art theme gift catalogue that arrived in the mail the other day, an outstanding example of that very It is extraordinary what lengths

standing example of that very British vice, transforming what we call "heritage" into utter kitsch. How about a Van Gogh sunflower needlepoint set for Auntie Mildred? Or a Gustav Klimt stencil kit for the kids? Personally, I'm rather taken with the Edvard Munch Screaming Cushion: "Every time you squeeze, an Battery included, guaranteed

for 3000 screams. Most gruesome of all, though, is the ex-pat social circuit which is almost impossible to duck at this time of year. This being Italy, you might expect people to revel in the pleasures of their adoptive home, or at least feel relieved not to have been posted to Dubai or Kinshasa. But you would be wrong. The conversation almost inevitably comes back to the theme of how intolerable it is to live here, and how much better everything well, everything except the wine, maybe – is back home. "I can't bear the Italians, al-

though some of the upper-class ones are quite amusing, says an investment banker. You might be surprised to learn this, but the climate in Rome is awful, a visiting newspaper editor is a visiting newspaper editor is told at a party (he looks more incredulous than surprised). "Every time I go to England bring back all the things you can't find here," expands a well-travelled representative of Her Majesty's Government. "You'd be amazed at the things the Italians have never heard of, like cream of tartar."

like cream of tartar." Oh, the privations of living in Italy. Personally, I feel nervous unless there are at least three tins of cream of tartar stocked up in my kitchen (baking powder just won't do), and whenever I look out on the limpid Roman winter skies I always think back with fondness on drizzly December afternoons in Stoke-on-Trent.

Perhaps I'm being uncharitable. There is a long tradition of foreigners, not just Brits, coming to Italy for the pleasures of the Grand Tour while at the same time occurrence. same time openly venting their contempt for the locals. Ruskin likened the Italians to "Yorick's skull with the worms in it, nothing of humanity left but the professed to "loathe and detest"

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Then again, history does not record Goethe or Henry James complaining of long fruitless searches for obscure raising agents in the side-alleys of Florence and Naples. Even they understood how the pleasures of Italian cuisine more than compensated for the temporary loss of Schweinshauen or bread-undbutter pudding. What the worst of the modern ex-pats seem to lack is not so muci

tiative and imagination. On the subject of initiative I've just made an interesting discovery prompted by my conversation with the diplomat with the emergency suitcase. You can get cream of tartar in Rome, after all. They sell it at the international delicatessen on Via Cola di Rienzo. One funny thing, though. The assistant I spoke to said they didn't have much call for it.

Andrew Gumbel

Christmas at Sainsbury's. Now that's a good idea.

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Sadism is new creed in Algeria

Fundamentalist brutality is coming ever closer to the capital, writes Robert Fisk

The butchery is getting closer to Algiers. There have been atroc-ties anienty in the Algerian cap-ital but the latest mass murder of civilians confirms that the "Islamists" are striking ever closer to the city. And these new atrocities - 29 dead in just 48 hours, almost all of them decapitated with knives - prove the country's civil war is growing ever more bloody in the days following the imposition of a new constitution.

The Islamic Armed Group (GIA) is being blamed for the bloodbath in Benachour, only of miles from Algiers, in which whole families had their throats cut after guerrillas entered the hamlet at the weekend to avenge themselves on villagers who had dared to join the government's heavily-armed "com-munal guard" units. The dead included a child of six, two 13year-old schoolgiris and a pregnant woman who was disembowelled before being

After hours of censorship by the government - which insists the war against "terrorism" is all but over - the Algerian press is now free to report on this latest butchery, which it is doing, with customary condemnation of the GIA and the barbus -"bearded ones" who are generally held responsible. There is no hint expressed in the press of the claim by the Islamic Armed Group (AIS), the less ferocious of Algeria's two antigovernment armies, that part of the GIA has been infiltrated by tul country's military security service and may be deliberate ly staging atrocities to drive civilians into supporting the military-backed regime.

Yet it still seems inconceivable that the regular army would involve itself in such terrible deeds; however ruthless the security forces may be, soldiers have their homes in these villages. In another hamlet out- guerre of a local GIA leader - into an ambush set by the 'muside Blida, the murders were committed with what can only be described as extreme sadism.



overhead, opening fire on the

gunmen in Algiers, the news-

paper Liberté holdly headlined

its story: "Day of Mourning".
A new "communique" claim-

ing the murder and issued by the

AJS, however, gloated over

Hamoui's death. "An apostate

working for Shuruq, which ad-

vocates vice and depravity, fell

jahideen' who killed him and

Holy wrath: An Algerian father visiting the grave of his son, one of the many killed during the country's civil war

between Boufarik and Chebli, farik, army helicopters raced declared that these 'mu-jahideen' had been killed. We

surrounding countryside in an say: Produce your proof if you attempt - according to the lo-cal government militia - to strike at "terrorist targets." are telling the truth". Human rights groups are meanwhile fearful that the The ruthlessness of this war atrocities apparently committed by "Islamist" groups may obcan be gauged from words as well as from blood. When scure the growing evidence of

fearful tortures in the basements first to have her throat cut was ist on the Arabic-language daiof Algeria's police stations, including - according to consistent reports from released prisoners - the rape of women. woman who was disembowelled The Belgian authorities, for example, will be interested to know that Othmane Bousria,

the Algerian they expelled from their country in July - on the grounds that he would not be in danger if he returned to Algeria - is reported to have died in police custody at the town of Motaganem. According to Liberté, Bous-

ria was arrested in the second week of November while attempting to cross the Algerian-Libyan frontier, along with his young sister, on a forged Dan-Bousria "committed suicide" by by "communal guard" forces left safe and sound," the AIS an- throwing himself out of a senounced. "Three days later, curity forces office while await-At the funeral near Bou- some junta [sic] newspapers ing trial.

Islamist trial begins in Paris

Mary Dejevsky

In the first case of its kind in France, more than 20 young men, all of north African extraction, went on trial in Paris yesterday charged with in-volvement in Islamic terror-ism. They are said to be part of a French-based network behind an attack in Morocco two years ago and then dismantled. A total of 30 people are accused, but only 21 appeared in

The charges include "associating with criminals for terrorist purposes", and armed robbery. There was tight security for the place less than a week after the bombing at Port Royal station in Paris. One theory is that the youth of housing estates and bomb, which killed four and in-

court yesterday; the rest are ei-

therwanted or in foreign prisons.

jured over 90 people, was a protest against the trial. In court yesterday defence lawyers argued that the current climate militated against their clients being given a fair trial. There was also heated argument over the absence of two main defendants. Stéphane Ait-Iddir and Radouane Hammadi are at the centre of the case, but they are in prison in Morocco under sentence of death, having been caught and convicted soon after the attack at the Atlas-Asni hotel in Marrakech in August 1994. A third member of the Marrakech group, Tarek Falah, was in the dock. Another of the main defendants is Abdelilah Ziyad, regarded as one of two France, responsible for preselytising among the disillusioned

significant shorts

Saddam free to resume oil exports

For the first time since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Iraq is free to resume limited exports of oil on to world oil-for-food agreement with the United Nations which received final approval from the Secretary-General,

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, yesterday. Impoverished by the embargo placed on it after the Gulf war. Iraq will be permitted to sell \$2bn (£1.3bn) of oil over six months and use the proceeds to buy food and medicul supplies. The outflow of oil. which will amount to roughly 600,000 barrels a day, compared to 3 million before

the war, and the inflow of humanitarian goods will be monitored by UN personnel. Mr Boutros-Ghali agreed to the deal after Baghdad agreed to the conditions last month. The first oil could be flowing by Thursday.

David Usborne - New York

Minister clear in sex scandal

Elio di Rupo, a Belgian deputy prime minister, was cleared by the highest court of allegations that he had sex with under-age boys. Although it said some new evidence remained to be examined, the decision looks likely to remove all pressure on Mr di Rupo to resign, defusing a crisis for the coalition government. Mr di Rupo, a known homosexual, was accused of engaging in child sex three weeks ago, after a waiter said he encountered the minister when he was under 16, the age of consent. The claims fuelled suspicion of corruption among senior government figures and brought new claims that the Dutroux (child-abuse)

atrocities were covered up. Parliament was pressed to lift yesterday aged 83. In 1978, Mr di Rupo's immunity and after her husband's death. of the court investigation the minister's assertion that he never engaged in illegal sex. Sarah Helm - Brussels

Russians say Nyet to nuclear power

In the first referendum of its kind, people in central Russia overwhelmingly rejected plans to build a nuclear nower station in Kostroma region because they believed it would destroy the ecology. It was the first time Russians were given such a choice. Kostroma, 125 miles from Moscow, is renowned for its clean air and rivers. Under Communism, the Kremlin decided where nuclear power plants were built, irrespective of local views. Phil Recres - Moscow

Swiss move on Holocaust gold

Switzerland's parliament cleared the way for a decree that will start a study of financial dealings with Nazi Germany and the fate of Jewish wealth stashed in Swiss banks during the Holocaust. The upper chamber of the Swiss parliament paved the way to passage of the measure by withdrawing an amendment which would have given individuals who feared being maligned in the study the right to ask the high court to block their names from being published. The decree follows international speculation and demands for a search by the World Jewish Congress, that Switzerland could still be hoarding gold or holding millions of dollars in assets of people killed during Hitler's reign of terror. Reuter - Berne

Mary Leakey dies at 83

Mary Leakey, half of the team whose discoveries in East Africa brought the world closer to understanding the origins of man, died send him for trial. The results she found footprints made in volcanic ash that showed million years ago – again. much earlier than had been thought. AP - Nairobi

Britain is 'haven for terrorists'

The dead included a pregnant

before she was beheaded

a 25-year-old woman whose ly Al-Shuruq was murdered by

Britam is a haven for Islamic fundamentalists and harbours "all the leaders" of radical Islamic movements. So said Charles Pasqua, the former French Interior Minister, in a television interview when asked to comment on last Tuesday's Paris bomb, writes Mary De-

ish in Belgium and Germany, he said, but it is Britain "where all the leaders of radical Islamic fundamentalist movements are to be found". Mr Pasqua was speaking shortly after the interior ministry disclosed that it had circulated a list of 13 wanted individuals to police forces

10 civilians - including seven women and a 10-year-old boy -

also had their throats cut just be-

fore 10pm on Wednesday night, two entire families wiped out by

the attackers after being accused of supporting the local "com-munal guard". One eyewitness

head was later cut off, tied by

her hair to a pike and left by the

them graffiti, written in blood,

on a wall: "War through war and

destruction through destruc-

real name Halilat Kouk - killed

tion. Kouka will return." "Kouka" was the nom-de-

The marderers left behind

Islamic terrorists also flour- in Europe. They are sought in lamic fundamentalist were also linked to the Algerian "Armed Islamic Group".

No one has admitted responsibility for Tuesday's bomb, but similarities between it and the bombs of 1995 have encouraged speculation that Is-

ons awaiting trial in connection with involvement in Islamic terrorism, the French authorities are known to be frustrated that they have not caught those

connection with last year's to blame. Although more than bombings in France, which was 200 people are in French pristhey regard as the instigators

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In Julien Duvivier's classic film Un Carnet de Bal, Raimu plays the part of a man who, when young, wanted to be President of the Republic. Years afterwards, when the film discovers him in his rural domain where he seems to rule over all that he surveys he reflects: "I'm President of everything, except the Republic." Alain Poher never had such early, flamboyant ambitions, but by 1969 he had been President of many institutions.

Having worked in the private office of the Minister for Finance, Robert Schuman, in 1946 and having been elected to the upper house of the Parliament, then known as the Conseil de la République, he served for a short period as undersecretary for Finance in the government of Henri Queuille in 1948. He then began his European career, being responsible for German and Austrian affairs from 1948 to 1950, and acting as the French representative on the International Authority for the Ruhr 1950-52. He became President of the Transport Commission in the Coal-Steel Assembly and President of the Planning Commission for the Common Market.

In the meantime he was Presparty (the Mouvement Républicain Populaire) in the Council of the Republic and later. when it became the Senate. He was elected a member of the European Parliament for 1958. and was its President from 1966 to 1969. He had been elected mayor of Ablon-sur-Seine (his birthplace) in 1945 and continued to hold that position until 1977. In 1968 he was elected President of the Association of Mayors of France, and also in 1968 was elected President of the Senate. In June 1969 General de Gaulle resigned and automatically Alain Poher be-came the acting President of the Republic (*Président par in*terim). But he decided to put himself forward for election, in the hope of being elected President for seven years. This dum. An important part of this would be, after all, the ultimate Looking back at this episode

is easy now to see that Poher was not of the same stuff as other Presidents of the Fifth Republic. He was a modest man, of humble origins, who had studied law and engineering (at the Ecole des Mines) and who intended to follow his father's profession, that of an engineer. He was attracted to politics because he believed very sincerely in two principles. The one was that France needed the social reforms that were put forward by the new political party, the Social Catholics: the other was that in order to avoid a third world war there needed to be some unification of Europe that would bring France and western Germany together. These simple ideas he expressed to his electors. They agreed with him: he spoke as they did, he looked as they did (except that his suits began to appear increasingly old-

Poher's election to the Presidency of the Senate had been something of a surprise. Relations between this House and de Gaulle had been very bad ident of the Social Catholic from 1962, when Gaston Monnerville, then President, had violently opposed the General's plans for the election of the President of the Republic by universal suffrage. De Gaulle publicly snubbed Monnerville at President Coty's funeral in November 1962 and had ceased to have any relations with the suaded to stand down in 1968 but it seemed impossible to find a successor.

shioned as time went by).

Poher stood on the third ballot and was chosen largely because of his European commitments and experience. It was ironic that no sooner had he assumed his position and started the process of reconciliation between the Luxembourg

proposed reform was to change whole nature of the Senate. Poher naturally was one of the leaders of the opposition to this referendum. When it failed de Gaulie resigned. Poher was one

of the victors in this battle. Was he not then well placed to replace de Gaulle? The argument was two-fold. De Gaulle had lost the referendum because of the defection of the centre right parties. Poher could rally this section of the voters to support him. And secondly, opinion about Georges Pompidou was divided. For some, Pompidou meant the continuation of Gaullism and was therefore to be opposed; for others, he had betrayed Gaullism by having presented himself to the country as the natural successor to de Gaulle, and was therefore not worthy of

support.
The first opinion polls suggested that Poher had more support than anyone else. De Gaulle, then admiring the Irish countryside and pretending to have no interest in the election, was horrified at this. It was France turning back to mediocrity, he is reported to have said, in a clearly unfair remark. But many commentators said that the election of Poher would be a return to the Fourth Republic, or more dangerous still, it would inaugurate a long period of uncertainty. Although Poher came second in the first ballot (with only 460,000 votes more than the Communist candidate) it was clear that he stood no chance in the second ballot, and he might have done well to have withdrawn. The second ballot gave more than 58 per cent of the votes to Pompidou, and a weak 42 per cent

to Poher. It speaks highly of Poher that this débâcle did not ruin him politically, although he had had to put up with many journalistic sarcasms (one accused Palace and the Elysée, that de dim of being "puffed out with have reduced its influence and Gaulle launched his referenmodesty"). He remained as the changed its nature. As a con-



Not of the same stuff as other Presidents of the Fifth Republic: Poher in 1988

President of the Senate until 1992. With the death of President Pompidou in 1974 he once again became President of the Republic par interim, but was not tempted to seek election. He achieved fame and respect as a defender of the Senate, particularly after 1981 when the Socialist government attempted to introduce reforms which would

stitutional expert he also intervened on matters which did not hobby was stamp-collecting, directly affect his role as President of the Senate. Thus he opposed those who wished to make the Consitutional Council the equivalent of the American Supreme Court.

Naturally someone who held power for so long was accused of being cunning, devious and self-centred. Perhaps the image

self as a simple citizen, whose was exaggerated.

Douglas Johnson

Alain Emile Louis Marie Poher, politician: born Ablon-sur-Seine 17 April 1909; President of the European Parliament 1966-69; President of the French Senate 1968-92; married 1938 Henriette Tugler (one daughter); died Paris 9 December 1996.

Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling

Denis Crowley-Milling first became interested and then fascinated by flying as a premium apprentice at Rolls-Royce, where he specialised in aeroengineering. Like so many of his contemporaries (he was born in 1919 and educated at Malvern), he had his first experience of it with Alan Cobham's Flying Circus, whereby the pioneer avia- cept of which he became a tor would travel round Britain strong and fervent advocate in

giving people air experience. At the outset of the Second World War, as a sergeant in the Volunteer Reserves, he was sent on a refresher course at Hullavington and gained his wings and later a commission; among the few select pilots on the course who were later to make their names in the RAF were Christopher Hartley and Leonard Cheshire, His first operational posting was to number 615 Auxiliary Squadron in France. Still under 21, he had the privilege of first engaging the Luftwaffe while flying a biplane, the splendid but totally obsolete Gladiator.

Despite a most gallant fight against odds, the RAF was chased out of France as comprehensively as was the Army. Crowley-Milling escaped to Tangmere and was next posted to 242 Squadron at Coltishall. Like most of its fellows, the Squadron had taken a bad beating in France. Leadership had been lacking and morale among squadron was low. The re-

doubtable legless pilot Douglas Bader was posted in to command and to pull the squadron

Among those on whom he left a deep and lasting impression was Crowley-Milling, who flew as his number 2 and was present at the initiation of the Big Wing (325 squadrons) conthe long controversy that raged over its merits and defects - and indeed still does to this day. He became an ardent admirer and later a close friend of Bader and on the latter's death in 1982 was a strong supporter of the Bader Foundation for the Physically Handicapped.

In 1940, Crowley-Milling's personal score of victories against the Germans grew steadily, in spite of being shot down himself. In 1941, he became a Spitfire flight commander in 610 Squadron again under Bader, who was by now his wing leader.

In August, while escorting daylight bombers over France, Crowley-Milling was again shot down, but through the good offices of the French Resistance and after many hair-raising adventures, he eventually escaped through Spain. After considerable hardships and serious illness there, he was eventually repatriated through Gibraltar and immediately resumed his flight command.

In this he was heavily involved in the air fight over Dieppe. His



Crowley-Milling: a strong and fervent advocate of the Big Wing (325 squadrons) concept

next appointments and promotions were successively to command a squadron and then a wing of typhoon fighter bombers, a devastating new weapon but one that involved great risks to the pilots, including in the early days a lot of trouble with the aircraft's engine. The last two years of his war was spent on air planning with the United States Air Force and operational requirements in the air

dustrialist and philanthropist, 1896; Charles Rennie Mackintosh, archi-

tect, painter and art nouveau pioneer, 1928: Alfred Damon Runyon, writer.

1946. On this day: the Gregorian cal-endar was adopted in France, 1582; the National Farmers' Union was

founded in London, 1908; King Edward VIII abdicated, and became Duke of Windsor, 1936; the UN Gen-

eral Assembly issued the Declaration

of Human Rights, 1948. Today is the Feast Day of St Edmund Gerhings, St Eulaha of Merida, St Eustace

White, St Gregory III, pope, St John Roberts, Saints Mannas, Hermo-

Roberts, Saints Mannas, Hermo-genes and Engraphus, St Melchiades or Miltindes, St Polydore Plaaden and

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Cruel Cuts (ii): Van Gogh's ear",

Victoria and Albert Museum:

Matthew Cock, "Silver in its historic

British Museum: Lesley Fitton, "Im-

pressions of Minoan Crete from

Antiquity to the Present", 1.15pm.

Loudon School of Economics, Lon-

don WC2: Professor Sudipto

Bhattacharya, "Intermediation, Knowledge and Corporate Gover-

Mr Michael Portillo MP, Secretary of

State for Defence, was the host at a

luncheon held yesterday in Lan-caster House, St James's, London

SW1, in honour of Mr Renato de Vil-

la, Secretary for National Defence of the Republic of the Philippines.

St Swithin Wells.

context", 2.30pm.

Luncheons

Ministry of Defence

Lectures

ministry. He received a permanent commission and his postwar career included interesting and important appointments in Egypt, Washington, Hong Kong

and Turkey. As a staff officer he showed the same determination and forcefulness as he had while on operations. He was a man of strong principles and convictions and many of his arguments heat, but never any noise - he was always polite and quiet spoken. When he believed he was right, he was a difficult man to shift. His boyish appearance concealed a great strength of

character. He retired from the RAF in 1975, although in his case retirement was perhaps not the right word, for he remained remarkably active. For the first five years, he was an energetic

and successful Controller of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fundantroducing as a fundraiser the now famous International Air Tattoo. In turn, and indeed at the same time, he was in-volved in the Not-Forgotten Association, the Escaping Society, and the Battle of Britain most individually, with the Douglas Bader Foundation.

Additionally, he was Chairman of the Governors of Malvern School, Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod of the Order of the Bath and Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators. His peacetime career fittingly crowned his wartime record. He was awarded the DFC in 1941, a Bar in 1942 and the DSO in 1943. He was appointed CBE in 1963 and KCB in 1973.

His invaluable partner, who shared much of the burden of his work was his lifelong partner. Lorna, whom he married as his childhood sweetheart more than 50 years ago. They had two daughters.

Christopher Foxley-Norris Denis Crowley-Milling. RAF officer. born 22 March 1919: DFC 1941. Bar 1942: DSO 1943: CBE 1963; KCB 1973; Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod 1979-85; Registrar and Secretary, Order of the Bath 1985-90; married 1943 Lorna Jeboult (née Stuttard; two daughters and one son deceased); died 1 December 1996.

Sir Bryan Roberts | 111

A public servant in Africa and Britain for much of his life. Bryan Roberts thought and acted fast and decisively. As Attorney General, and later as the holder of the highest official posts in Malawi, he played a contral role in that country's transition to independence. It was in large part due to his skill, judgment and tact, and above all his excellent relations with Dr Hastings Banda, that that transition proved to be so successful.

Bryan Clieve Roberts was born in 1923, and educated at Whitgift School and Magdalen College, Oxford. He served through the Second World War, being commissioned in the Royal Artillery and the Royal Horse Artillery, with whom he saw active service in Normandy, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

On being demobilised he was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1950 and entered the chambers of Viscount Hailsham QC, the future Lord Chancellor, for whom he was later to work when he returned from Africa. He then served in the Treasury Solicitors' Office for two years before entering the Colonial Legal Services in 1953, as a Crown Counsel in what was at that time Northern Rhodesia.

He served there until 1961 successively as Crown Counsel and Director of Public Prosecutions. In 1961 he was appoint-ed So-licitor-General of the neighbouring protectorate of Nyasaland (now Malawi) which, with Northern and Southern Rhodesia, had become part of the Central Africa Federation in 1953. In moving to Nyasaland he joined other senior officials who had also spent their earliest careers in Northern Rhodesia: Glyn Jones, the Governor, and

Robin Foster, the Chief Secretary. His service in Africa covered the whole of the federal period, Nyasaland's struggle to secede from it and Malawi's early years of independence. In Malawi he was successively Solicitor-General, Attorney-General and Secretary to the President and Cabinet. From July 1965 until May 1972 he concurrently held the posts of Attorney-General, Secretary for Justice. Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service.

He worked closely with ministers, and especially during the early years following independence in July 1964, was intimately involved with the decisions which Dr Banda - first Prime Minister and then President - made, He was a strong supporter of the President and a firm, indeed at times tough, adviser to him.

cabinet revolt only a few weeks after independence in which all Banda's ministers either resigned or were dismissed; the armed rebellions of Chipembere in 1965 and Chisiza in 1967; changes to the criminal justice system which resulted in the resignation of the whole high court bench in 1970; Banda's relations - diplomatic and economic - with South Africa; the "slow but sure" Africanisation of the civil service: and the early stages of a regime which became increasingly harsh after Roberts left. In 1972 he handed over to the first Malawian Secretary to the President and Cabinet and Head of the Civil

had guided and advised over the preceding few years.

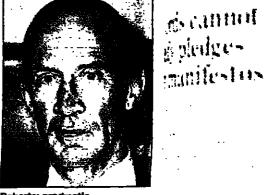
Banda's tasks at this time were far from easy and he had many enemies both within and without the country. That he survived, indeed flourished, and placed the country on as sound an economic footing as possible in the early days of independence (although things deteriorated badly later on) was in no small

Service, George Jaffu, whom he

measure due to the support and advice given to him by Roberts. In those early days Handa see much admired by internation al aid donors for the sensible and proper way external aid was used in Malawi and this, too, owed a great deal to Roberts. His advice to the President, frequently subtly phrased, also saved a number of expatriates from the sting of Banda's fly whisk. Roberts was above all pragmatic and this fitted well with Banda's approach to economics and politics in Africa. In 1972 Roberts returned to

Britain, and in the following year he entered the Lord Chancellor's Department as Training Officer for the lay magistracy. By contrast to the range and importance of his responsibilities in Malawi, this was a modest appointment, but Roberts undertook it with enthusiasm. His energy and drive led to his being appointed Deputy Secretary of Commissions and, on Sir Thomas Skyrme's retirement in 1977, Secretary of Commissions, and thus the Lord Chancellor's principal adviser on the appointment and work of the magistrape.
Roberts also followed Skyrme. energetically developing the work of the Commonwealth Magis-trates' and Judges' Association of which he served as Chairman from 1979, before becoming Life Vice-President in 1994.

In 1982 Roberts was appointed a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, and served at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in Inner London until his retirement in 1993. The work there was congenial to him, and he acquired a reputation for ge-



nial tolerance towards the accused appearing before him. A characteristic enquiry by Roberts to a defendant, however, was: "If you were parking, how is it you were exceeding the speed limit?"

Bryan Roberts had a memorable presence and personality. Tall, elegant, amusing and tough-minded, he possessed a of crucial events took place: the a passion for exact English, and he was quick to correct linguistic solecisms. He could be acerbic, but he was a kind man and a good friend. Colleagues who worked less swiftly than he did frequently had to cope with visits from Roberts, who had finished all his own work and wanted to exchange humorous gossip with them.

Derek Oultol. and Colin Baker

Bryan Clieve Roberts, lawyer and civil servant: born 22 March 1923; Called to the Bar, Gray's Irm 1950; Crown Counsel, Northern Rhodesia 1953-60, Director of Public Prosecutions 1960-61; QC (Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasa-land) 1961; Solicitor-General, Nyasaland 1961-64; Attorney General of Malawi 1964-72; CMG 1964, KCMG 1973; Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet, and Head of Malawi Civil Service 1965-72; Lord Chancellors' Office 1973-82, Under Secretary 1977-82; married 1958 Pamela Campbell (marriage dissolved), 1976 Brigitte Reilly-Morrison (marriage dis-solved), 1985 Barbara Forter, died London 6 December 1996.

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

BUXTON: On 21 November, to Victoria and Jonathan, a son, Thaddeus Alexander.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fix to 0171-293 2010. Charges

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen brids an Introduce at Buckingham Palace. The Queen brids an Introduce at Buckingham green by Recing Welfare Chartiev at St James's Palace, by parts the celebratows to mark the 198th Annayer are of the Graph National. The Petines of Males, President, Business on the Continuity, who the Green shall Residuate the British Courts for new banker British and Residuates there harden, British areas the British Caucar Help Centre. Chief or opens the Muse. Revon. British Caucar Chief or Opens the Muse. Revon. British Courter, and President to Proceed Chief Courter, and President to Proceed Courters, which marks 30 years of Mar Itel. at the Import Leachest Equate. Lendon WCT The Dalac President School of Recoperat. Lendolish Revo. President School of Recoperat. Lendolish Revo. President School of Recoperat. Lendolish and voice Unified School, Derfield, The Dalac School of Recoperat. Lendolish and voice Unified School, Derfield, The Dalac School of Recoperat. Lendolish and voice Unified School, Derfield, The Dalac School of Recoperat. Lendolish and voice Unified School, Derfield, The Dalac School of Recoperations.

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays Sir Scott Baker, High Court judge,

59; Mr John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, 52; Mr Kenneth Branagh, actor, 36; Mr Harry Cohen MP, 47; Sir John Collins, chief exec-utive, Vestey Group, 55; Professor Barrington Cunliffe, archaeologist, 57; Miss Rumer Godden, writer, 89; Mr Cecil Hallett, former general sec-retury, AEU, 97; Lord Harris of High Cross, founder president, Institute of Economic Affairs, 72; Mr Michael Jopling MP, 66; Sir David Kelly, chair-man, Kelly Packaging, 60; Miss Joan Kenworthy, Principal, St Mary's Col-lege, Durham, 63; Mr Jahangir Khan, squash champion, 33; Mr Nicolas Kynasion, concert organist, 55; Mr James McAdam, chairman, Signet Group, 66: Mr Ralphael Maklouf, culptor, 59; Mr Michael Manley, former prime minister of Jamaica, 72; Sir Jeremy Morse, former chairman of Lloyds Bank, 68; Professor Howard Newby, Vice-Chancellor, Southampton University, 49; Sir John Peel, former surgeon gynaecologist to the Queen, 92; Mr Raymond Plummer, ex-President and Honorary Director of the Design and Industries Association. 80; Sir Angus Stirling, chairman, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 63;

Anniversaries

Births: Emily Elizabeth Dickinson. poet, 1830; Ernest Howard Shepard, illustrator of "Winnie the Pooh". 1879; Dorothy Lamour (Mary Leta Siaton Kaumeyer), actress, 1914. Deaths: Alfred Bernhard Nobel, in-

Mr Chad Stuart, rock singer, 53; Mr

Colin Turner, former Rector. Glas-

gow Academy, 63; Mr Michael Wright, writer, 60.

HMS Victory

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Naval Home Command, hosted a uncheon yesterday onboard HMS Victory at Portsmouth Naval Base. Mr Conrad Black, Chairman, The Telegraph Plc, was among the guests.

Guild of Freemen of the City of London

The Lord Mayor of London, Mr Roger Cork, attended the Annual Banquet of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London held yesterday evening at Guildhall, London EC2. Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, Master, presided.

Sir John Balcombe, President, the Maccabeans, presided at the annu-al Chanukah Dinner held yesterday evening at Lincoln's Inn, London WC2. Sir Aaron Klug and Professor Lord Winston were the speakers.

Royal Institute of International Affairs

The meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, which was to have been addressed by Dr Rus-du Saracoglu, on Wednesday 11 De-cember 1996 at 11am, has been

Royal Over-Seas League Professor Sir Kenneth Stuart was the

guest speaker of the Royal Over-Seas League's Discussion Circle held yesterday evening at Over-Seas House, London SWI, His subject was "What Everyone Should Know about Blood

Action against dead doctor was time-barred

Kelly v Bastible and others; Court of Appeal (Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Millett, Lord Justice Waller) 7 November 1996

The fact that a defendant was insured was not by itself a reason for concluding, in terms of section 33 of the Limitation Act 1980, that he would suffer less prejudice, if the limitation provisions barring the plaintiff's case were disapplied, than if he were not insured. In considering such prejudice, defendant and insurer were to be treated as a composite unit.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the execu-tors of the estate of Dr Christopher Bastible, who died in 1970, against a decision of Mr Justice Wright on 17 November 1994 to allow a claim by the plaintiff, Dean John Kelly, for damages for medical negligence at the time of his birth

in 1965, to proceed out of

mon King (Cooks & Son, Luton) for

time. In allowing the case to proceed, the judge took into account that the doctor was insured by the Medical Defence Union. Piers Ashworth QC and Flora Sinclair (Hempson, Covent Gurden) for the defendants; Nigel Baker QC and Si-

LAW REPORT

Lord Justice Waller said that in relation to any claim now being brought against the doctor's tate, the impact of the Limitation Act was of prime importance. By section 11 the time limit for personal injuries was three years from the date on which the cause of action arose, or the date of knowledge (if later) of the person injured. Knowledge was dealt with by section 14.

By virtue of section 28(1) and (6) the limitation period in the case of someone under a disability [in the sense of being unable to sue, eg because he was a minor; see section 38(4)] was extended to three years from the date when he ceased to be under such disability.

The plaintiff ceased to be under a disability at the age of 18. By that age or soon after, the judge found, he must have had the requisite knowledge to bring proceedings. But he only consulted solicitors in 1987, and the writ was not issued until 1990, when he was 25.

The defendants applied to strike out the claim. But the judge, exercising his discretion

under section 33 of the 1980 Act, permitted it to proceed. Section 33 empowered the court to disapply the limitation provisions if it would be equitable to allow the action to proceed, having regard to the degree to which the limitation provisions prejudiced the plain-tiff and to which their disap-

defendant. The judge concluded that he would have exercised his discretion against allowing the action to proceed, but for the fact that the defendants were insured. He held that he was compelled to take this into account without considering any

plication would prejudice the

prejudice to the insurers, and concluded that the defendants were not prejudiced. In so concluding, he relied on an observation of Parker LJ in

Hartley v Birmingham City Council [1992] 1 WLR 968,

if it is ... legitimate to take into ac-count whea considering prejudice to the plaintiff that he will have a claim against his solicitors, it must in my judgment [be] legitimate to take into account that the defendant is

In his Lordship's judgment, that observation did not preclude insurers being entitled through the defendant to rely on any point there might be to demonstrate prejudice. The correct approach when considering prejudice to the defendant under section 33 was to treat the defendant and his insurer as a composite

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It was always right in weighing prejudice to one side against that to another for the judge to recognise that the plaintiff had no alternative remedy against his solicitor, and he would also as a matter of reality be aware that the defendant was insured.

However if, treating the defendant and insurer as a composite unit, the judge concluded that delay had seriously prejudiced their ability to fend, and if he would not allow the action to proceed if the defendant were not insured, then, taking into account at that stage that the plaintiff would have no claim against his solicitor, the weight to be given to the mere fact that the defendant was insured ought to be

Paul Magrath, Barrister

The state of the s

JAY COSTA

Why Labour should send the lords a' leaping

Labour Party, something is wrong. The Conservative peer and novelist makes a modest proposal to end sex discrimination in the succession to the throne. Labour seems sympathetic, but is not eager to start any royal hares

As Lord Archer pointed out yester-day, his proposed Bill would make no difference in practice for 50 or 60 years, because the Queen's oldest child is male, as in turn is his. Only if Prince William had a daughter would the royal revolution occur. Such is Tory radical-

ism, to which new Labour pays court.
To be fair to Lord Archer, he is more consistent than that, and therefore more revolutionary. Because to challenge the principle of male primogeniture in the Royal Family is to question the basis of membership of his own chib. the House of Lords.

It should hardly need stating, 20 years after the Sex Discrimination Act, that the privilege of the eldest male is an anachronism which should have no role in any part of our lives. It would be interesting, after the recent bellicose noises from Tory hereditary peers, to see whether the Tory party really does try to defend the right to influence the nation's affairs of the eldest sons of male descendants of someone who stitched up some deal for a long-dead king or queen. One only has to imagine The

hen Jeffrey Archer appears to Sun's campaign to save the heredibe more radical than the taries to realise the absurdity of the idea.

That did not stop Lord Cranborne, Tory leader in the Lords and heir to Lord Burghley (who did a few deals for Elizabeth I) saying last week that it was "helpful" to have in Parliament a "body chosen by lot". Some lot, in which women's numbers are automatically unlikely to come up. The House of Lords has 1,200 members, slightly more than half of whom are hereditary peers. Of the 86 women, only 16 are hereditaries.

It is not just the sexual bias, although this is often forgotten in the guff about the "quality" of debates in the Upper House, Even if Lord Archer's Bill were extended to the peerage, so that women had an equal chance to inherit a seat in the House of Lords, this ought to be unacceptable in any country that calls itself a democracy. Let it never be forgotten that it was the votes of the hered-

itary peers which gave us the poll tax.
Labour is absolutely right to abolish
the voting and speaking rights of hereditary peers. And if Labour wins the election and the hereditary peers try to thwart the change, they should be swept away. The declaration last week by Lord Irvine, who would be Tony Blair's Lord Chancellor, that in the case of obstruction Labour would have to look at "every weapon at its disposal" was refreshing. As he said in his New Statesman interview, "the time for the abolition of the hereditaries has come".



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON EM 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-298 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

It is one of the niggling worries about Mr Blair, however, that he fails to stand on the high ground of constitutional reform with the same confidence and aggression that he displays in other fields. The abolition of a hereditary House of Lords would be a great radical change, which could have far-reaching effects on British politics in the long term. It would be popular, and it has no public spending implications. Likewise the referendums in Scotland, Wales and London on how they should be governed, on electoral reform and on the single European currency. They have so far appeared to be defensive pol-

itics rather than a new politics in which the watchword is "let the people decide". In last week's interview, Lord Irvine also justified the proposed referendum in Scotland purely in terms of the impetus it would give to driving the Bill to set up a Scottish parliament through Westminster, rather than as a good thing in itself. He and Mr Blair have approached the task of pruning, shaping and prioritising Labour's programme of constitutional reform with laudable scepticism and pragmatism. The decision on the devolution referendums may have "come too late", as Lord Irvine disarmingly admitted. But

it was the right decision, and now Labour has a solid list of achievable first steps. Reform of the Lords. Devolution. A Freedom of Information Act. Incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights. A referendum on the voting system. It has rightly been said that this package is Mr Blair's inheri-tance, rather than his passion. And there is much that has been put off until another day, including the ultimate make-up of a democratic second chamber of parliament. But the package could still be turned into a positive virtue for the Labour Poster at the varue least for the Labour Party, at the very least, Mr Blair must not resile.

There has been much talk of the difficulty of getting such an ambitious raft of legislation through Parliament, and how it would distract an incoming Labour government from immediate bread-and-butter issues. This is no longer true, because many of the Bills will be short, with more complex issues deferred. But the key to the whole programme of democratic reform is the clearing out of the hereditaries from Parliament. If they are not dealt with, they would become the principal obstacle to progress on other fronts. Devolution law was grievously delayed by the House of Lords during the last Labour government, but this time peers would want to engage in nitpicking arguments about human rights law and the rest as well.

So Lord Irvine was quite right to threaten to flood the Upper House with

Reform of the Lords Bill through. It would be quite possible to create 350 peers on a dull Monday in November next year and have the Bill through by February, after which they could all resign. There would be no shortage of volunteers for a few months of such noble public service. If it would assist the Labour leadership, The Independent would be happy to offer short-term life peerage commissions as prizes for its readers. You would scramble for the opportunity, wouldn't you?

How to make teachers happy

It comes as some surprise to discover British teachers are relatively well paid, compared to their foreign counterparts. But is it enough to make them happy? Unsurprisingly, no: as so often, pay is a part, but only a part, of the sadly weak morale in our staffrooms. People who are well led, by someone who gives them pride in what they do, are generally happier and more committed. And, as the other element of the OECD research shows, teachers might be an awful lot happier if they had the same sort of pupil-teacher ratios that some of their continental colleagues enjoy. Parents would probably happier, too.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Lords cannot defy pledges in manifestos

Sir: Robert Cranborne is correct ("A Lordly plot to save their place", 4 December). No party could reasonably defy the Salisbury-Addison Convention which places a de facto limit on the ability of the Lords to reject any proposal that has been supported by the British

people in a general election.
The Lords, in my experience, are rightly even cautious in rejecting at Second Reading any Bill which ~ although not necessarily part of a manifesto - has still been passed by

the Commons. However, this convention bolsters rather than diminishes the role of the Lords as a revising chamber. If any future government wants to achieve constitutional reform, its legislation must be subject to the same level of scrutiny

as any other important matter. They will not find the House of Lords in any way irresponsible or lacking in ideas. I for one would want to put some effective limits on the Lords' ability to amend legislation that results in significant extra public expenditure, in the

half a Parliament was made known to the Prime Minister before I took the job in 1992. During my time all the Government legislation was secured, the Maastricht Bill by the largest vote (and I believe the largest majority) ever achieved by any government in the long history

We certainly had difficulties with the Police and Magistrates Courts Bill and the Education Bill. However, on each of these items of legislation, the amendments made by the Lords were never seriously altered or challenged when they subsequently went to the

House of Lords London SWI (The author was Leader of the House of Lords from 1992-94)

the political agenda.

The logic of examining the

hereditary aspects of the monarchy, as well as that of the Lords, can no longer be avoided even by those who are as keen to to abolish it.

conscientious rule by the present Queen and her father only came

in the Commonwealth are selected by a council of elders from those of royal lineage. These king-makers may not themselves be of royal blood but are expected to have a better idea than the subjects at large of the heir's leadership potential, or even if descent through the maternal line is

monarchy became too politicised, it would endanger the sense of national cohesion which is

LISTEN, ANY BASTARD TENS TO HOLD ME TO RANSOM ... THE JOYN GETS IT!

raising of which they play no part.
Incidentally, my desire to be
Leader of the Lords for only about

of the House of Lords.

Commons. Lord WAKEHAM

Sir: The release of archives confirming that Edward VIII was a Nazi sympathiser ("Britain's would-be Nazi Queen", 4 December) comes at a time when reform of the House of Lords is on

preserve the monarchy as some are Sixty years of wise and

about because a divorcée was unacceptable as a Queen Consort. The reported shortcomings of the present royal offspring add weight to the need to determine a better way of appointing future sovereigns than automatically crowning the Her Majesty will know that many of the hereditary rulers and chiefs

individual it is far more complex. Few understand, apart from those who have experienced it, the uncontrollable sense of loss that many women feel after they have gone through a termination. Worse desirable - as in Ashanti.
If the future of the British still, few care to listen or attempt to

millennium.

Crediton, Devon

My sense of loss

Sir: I read Suzanne Moore's article

in defence of abortion (6 December) with interest. While I

wholly commend her stance, she failed to broach the complexity of

abortion itself. This year I found

myself pregnant and chose, with

much pain, to have an abortion.

But as recently as two years ago, I

Like racism in Britain, it is a

subject that few wish to discuss

until they are forced into a

situation where they have no

choice. Part of the problem in

discussing abortion is that it falls

into clichés about a woman's right

itself. While this may be true on the

over her body or the right of life

level of the collective, for the

was a fairly ardent anti-abortionist.

after abortion

I was told by several friends that I was being "empowered". In fact. I

feel as if I am still in a state of probably the most cogent reason for preferring it to a presidential alternative. I suggest that the mourning and far from having been empowered. It is a death after all. It leaders of the three main parties seems obvious to me that faced with having a child or having an and their dominion counterparts request Her Majesty to recommend a way of appointing abortion, whichever decision you make is the wrong one. It is a catch her successor that leaves less to the chances of primogeniture and more to the royal candidates' qualities to lead us in the next

The debate on abortion will never progress until women who have been through it are given the floor - to explain to those who haven't a clue but merely a view the issues that stand out above women's rights. LARA PAWSON

Sir. Like other pro-abortionists, Suzanne Moore has no new arguments in favour of abortion (6 December). This makes her article typical of present pro-choice writing. It also explains why, as she herself admits, the pro-choice position is now looking less and less defensible. For there is a new argument for a pro-life position, and a very powerful one: it's called

In 1996, we all know from scans what a baby in the womb looks like at 12 weeks' gestation; in 1967, we didn't. In 1996, any mother-to-be can use a scan to watch her unborn baby having the hiccups, or falling asleep: in 1967, she couldn't.

Because of ultrasound, in 1996 we can understand what we are doing in killing a child in the womb much more clearly than we could in 1967. That's why it's time to rethink the morality of abortion in the light of our new appreciation of the unborn child's humanity. That's why it won't do just to trot out the

same old arguments as worked for the pro-choice side in 1967. DRTDJCHAPPELL Philosophy Department University of Manchester

Sir: Suzanne Moore is to be congratulated on tackling the impopular topic of legal abortion, and she has rightly identified that the anti-abortion lobby has set the agenda for the debate over the last 15 years. This is in part because they have more money, and have the weight of the Catholic Church behind them.

The second major factor is the way the media of the 1990s are dominated by personal interest stories rather than reasoned debate. It is therefore hard for the pro-choice lobby to interest the nedia in the issues which remain unresolved since the passage of the 1967 Abortion Act. WENDY SAVAGE Doctors for a Woman's Choice on Abortion

London NI

Sir. Why is it that many who speak loudly (and rightly) about the rights of women seem quite unconcerned that two million of the four million human abortions performed in the UK since 1967, must, on statistical grounds, be assumed to have terminated female lives? (Sex, characteristics and aptitudes, is

together with many other physical determined at the moment of conception). Two million women and girls have been denied the right to live, by someone else's "choice". JOHN H DEAM

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Ban all marches to help Ulster

Sir: Following the breaches of law and order associated with the Drumcree confrontation last July, a fresh wave of communal strife in Northern Ireland arising from dogmatic assertion of a "right to march" threatens to erupt into large-scale violence ("Revenge of the loyalists: Prevented from marching they turn to torching", 6 December).

Police, politicians and the public are agonising over what appears to many an intractable problem. Yet a regrettable, but simple and evenhanded remedy is available: the Government could immediately impose a moratorium for an indefinite period on all marches whether orange, green, black or of any other colour.

Before crying "Fouli", opponents of such a measure should ponder the fact that a tradition which was once a source of legitimate pride and pleasure (and provided displays of unequalled musical talent) has become a source only of fear. hatred and barbarity. MARCUS WHEELER

Turkey's record

Sir: I usually admire the opinions of Professor Norman Stone, as common sense informed by historical knowledge. I was therefore very disappointed by his article ("The view from here", 5

December) inspired by his work at Bilkent University in Ankara: a hymn of praise to Turkey, Ankara

and the university.

Modern Turkey may have begun without labour camps; it certainly began, and continues, with ethnic massacres. Its corruption in politics and business is famous. It is a safe baven for crooks. Its inflation is astronomical. Its realpolitik in international affairs is an

embarrassment to its allies. It is currently well on the way to becoming another Islamic dictactorship. Its human rights record, including routine torture, even against children, is

I have been to Ankara (in winter, admittedly). Its centre is a mudridden wasteland of tasteless, prewar totalitarian concrete.

As for Bilkent, Professor Stone finds it very refreshing, compared with "swimming in glue" as a teacher in English universities. I can only suggest he resigns his Oxford professorship. M J KNÍGHT Slough, Berkshire

Flawed figures

Sir: M C Fitzpatrick's letter (5 December) attempting to predict the result of the election is fundamentally flawed, because it takes no account of the probability distribution of the possible outcomes that are described.

The writer commits the error of assuming that the outcome with the widest range (Labour gaining 11 to 54 seats) is also the most probable outcome. This ignores voting trends and opinion polls. SAMUEL BOOTE

Euro opt-out is for the birds

Sir. One aspect of the current controversy about how deeply we ought, in regard to the management and control of our national economy, to become integrated with the EU, seems not to have been adequately perceived by the Euro-sceptics.

On Black Wednesday in September 1992, the Government only escaped total economic collapse by resorting to a massive devaluation of our currency, a tactic which during my 35 years as a Tory MP was condemned by the Conservatives in office, or out of it, as reprehensible, and at best as a mere shot in the arm, intended to improve the terms of trade by cheapening our exports; but which in the long term would lead to

inflation. The fact that this latter has not yet happened is because domestic consumer demand has not been as high as one would normally have expected because of the high level of unemployment we have endured

until very recently.

So far, well and good; but if we exercise our undeniable right to opt out of the euro, as John Major has declared, "right up to the 11th bour of the final month", when we have to make up our minds, we are living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

For faced with that prospect, the countries joining the euro are never thereafter going to allow us to enjoy the present favourable trading arrangements with them by allowing us to maintain, let alone increase, our competitive position, by inculging in large budget deficits and resorting to further unilateral devaluations when the going gets rough. Sir FREDERIC BENNETT Aberangell, Powys

Sir: On 6 December, the Foreign Secretary spoke on the Radio 4 Today programme of a "highly centralised federal state".

The whole point of a federal state is that it is decentralised. No marks, Mr Rifkind! PAUL BEACHAM Worthing, Sussex

Leg trap evidence Sir: Richard D North ("Very sexy. Big mistake", 5 December) stresses how harmless leg traps are to their victims and that he knows of no one

who has seen an animal which has chewed its leg off when trapped. l know of people in the pro-hunting lobby in this country who have seen foxes and rats, caught in illegal traps, which have chewed their trapped legs off.
IAN M McCOURTIE

Chunnel masks Sir: As an enthusiastic Chunnel

Kirklecs Friends of the Earth

Shelley, West Yorkshire

supporter, may I suggest that masks are issued (as they are on aircraft) in the event of fire ("Fire breaks out in Channel Tunnel", 19 November)? The worst danger is from smoke inhalation. MIS WILLIAM WORDSWORTH Canterbury

Golden oldies

Sir: I have just bought a packet of "Hobnobs" biscuits. I note that they are "best before 05 April 97 AD". Who would be the more interested - the public health authorities or the British Museum? WABEAUMONT



On the day the **Nobel Peace** Prize is shared by champions of the Timorese cause. Richard **Lloyd Parry** talks to a young activist about the struggle to free his country from Indonesia





Jakarta. This year's Nobel Peace Prize is shared by Bishop Carles Belo (above) and Jose Ramos-Hortu (above left), prominent thorns in Indonesia's side

Main photograph: Popperfoto/Reuters

The torture of East Timor

he young man at the door of my hotel room, who calls himself Putu, was a prince in his own country, and even in Jakarta he has a detached and exotic air. His skin is darker than typical Javanese skin, and his lips and brows are thick and pronounced. He wears neat jeans and expensive boots, the gift (he says) of "friends of the cause". His hair billows behind him in a dense fuzzy ponytail, and he

has long, elegant fingernails.
He wasn't easy to get hold of.
A mutual friend told Putu that I wanted to meet him, and this morning Putu called the friend, who talked to us simultaneously on two separate phones, arranging the time and the place. Putu has no proper identity papers, and in August several friends of his were arrested; they go on trial this week on the capital charge of subversion. Since escaping from East Timor, he has lived as a fugitive, moving from one safe house to another, never sleeping in the same bed for longer than five nights.

Putu is 21 years old, exactly the same age as the war in East Timor. When he was born in

ernment's secret plans to annex his home were already well advanced. He was five months old when the first troops landed, and shortly after his first birthday President Suharto signed the document formally proclaiming East Timor the 27th province of Indonesia. Putu lost his father at the age of 10, was tortured for the first

East Timor is one of those conflicts which flickers only intermittently on the global radar screen. As many as 200,000 people are said to have died as a consequence of the Indonesian invasion: in its immediate aftermath, there were indignant resolutions in the United Nations, but within a few years the problem had been largely forgotten. The subject flared again in 1991 after a British cameraman filmed a massacre of mourners in an East Timorese cemetery, and since October this year East Timor has been back on the international worry list. At a ceremony in Oslo today, the Nobel Peace Prize will be jointly awarded to two of East Timor's most outspoken champions - its

time at the age of 12, sen-tenced to death at the age of 17, and fled to exile last year. harm than good, driving the touchy Suharto regime into a corner, and

provoking an even harder line. Hints of this came last month after a German magazine published an interview with Bishop Belo in which he accused Abri, the Indonesian armed forces, of treating East Timorese like

sure from Jakarta he denied colonies. The Indonesian gov-using the expression. "But he using the expression. "But he was telling the truth," says Putu. "I know because I am one of them. I am one of the scabby

June 1975, the Indonesian gov- bishop, Carlos Belo, and Jose transition and an unlucky set of

eign minister in exile. The government of the Indonesian president Suharto local authority was affected remarkably little by the Porat the award, especially to Ramos-Horta, whom it paints as a trouble-maker and former terrorist. Some diplomats in Jakarta believe that the announcement has done more control of the valuable sandal-

> **J** knew where the leaders were, but it would have been better to die than to tell

neglected

turnine

when a new left-

rapid withdrawal

from its remaining

peaceful.

bogged down in Vietnam, was

with one of South-east Asia's

most bitterly anti-Communist

governments. It was in this

atmosphere of opportunism

and connivance that the war

Putu never knew Timor at

peace; the king and his family

fled their town when he was still

a baby. "We lived in a hut in the

jungle," he remembers, "but for

a long time I really wasn't aware of the war. In the jungle

we used to find bodies of peo-ple killed by Abri, but I didn't

think anything of them. Some-

times our parents told us that

ple can genuinely believe that

there are UFOs and aliens

and things in The X-Files and

sex 'n' Satan in the Orkneys, and a reasonable chance of

winning the lottery and so on.

Oh, yes we do! Every day

don't exist as if they do. Every

we too talk about things that

day we pretend that things

are not what they really are.

Today I am going to prove it

by bringing you a list of 10 things that do not exist even

though we say they do.

Mercia

under intense presafter riots the previous year, was ready for a military distraction, and the United States, in no mood to make trouble

dogs."
Putu, and his war, are products of a singular moment of

historical circumstances. His father was a liurai, one of the many Timorese "kings", whose air and sea. But I was just a kid and it didn't seem strange to tuguese colonists who first There was a reason why the family had to keep on the move.

century. The Portuguese in the apart from the routine brutaleast skirmished intermittently ity of the occupying army. with the Dutch in the west for Putu's father was collaborating with Falintil, the armed wing of wood trade. But the East Timorese resistance. One day, after they had been Lisbon was half a world away, and caught in the jungle and Timor, with its disforcibly returned to their home tinctive tribes, lanby the army, the king and five guages and local cults, remained of his people were summoned to the office of the local Indonesian administrator.
"They were taken by the milimuch as it had always been - poor,

tary and told that they were going to be given money, which the Indonesians paid to all of point came in 1974. the kings. On the way to the office they disappeared. Someone found my father and his wing government in Portugal began a friends in a small cave. We took their bodies out and buried them." At the age of 10, Putu

became a courier for Falintil, carrying letters and clothes to the fighters in the hills from their supporters in the capital. When Putu was 12 a group of soldiers came round to his house and took him away to the local military headquarters. They beat him up, forced his fingertips under the leg of a heavy metal table, and sat on it; afterwards, they stripped his fingernails. "At the time I thought I'd rather die than go through that kind of torture. I couldn't get any sleep for three days because they just kept tor-turing me. Two or three would hit me, then they'd go out and a different group would come

Other detainees in the military headquarters were going the army was coming, and we through even worse. Putu saw

trodes attached to their genitals. He doesn't know how many deaths he witnessed. After three days of this, the soldiers started asking their questions: did he know such-andsuch a person in Falintil? What kind of things did he take to them? This technique of torture first, questions later is

useless to question East Timorese without torturing them first," Putu says. "They won't tell you anything." As Putu grew up, and the

nature of the struggle in East Timor changed too. With its overwhelming military superiority, stiffened by American and, allegedly, by British hardware, the Indonesian military captured and killed large numbers of the resistance and its leaders - these

days the fighters are believed to number no more than a few hundred in the deepest reaches of the interior. The struggle shifted from the hills to the as the date when he would cities, and from the older guerrillas to young activists like Putu.

He moved to the East Timorese capital. Dili, and was there on 12 November 1991 when troops opened fire on unarmed mourners in Santa to the town of Kupang, where Cruz cemetery. A year later he picked up a fake identity was arrested after organising a protest to coincide with a summit of the leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement. After a week of torture (beatings administered while he was hanging upside down), he was boarded. One by one the fugi-

moved deeper into the jungle. a brother and sister being tor-There was bombing, from the tured side by side with elec-which was notorious as an exe-They told me to kneel down

because my life was going to end. I prayed and gave myself to God. Then one of them said, to God. Then one of them said,
'Don't kill this boy. He's still
young, there's still time to teach
him. They took me to a prison
in Dili. They stripped my
clothes, and put me in a cell
which was full of human shil." apparently standard in East which was full of human shit."
Timor. "They know that it's He spent a year in detention, working as a forced labourer. moving from prison to prison every three months.

The next time he was arrested in November 1994, the Indonesian

intelligence forces, after the routine softening, offered to cut a achieved deal with him: in nothing house, a car, a compared motorbike, and 20 million rupiahs to those (£6,000), he was to lead them to who were two of the most killed wanted Faliptil leaders. Putu defending signed the agreethe truth

> pass on the information, and collect his prizes. "I knew where they were." he says. "But it would have been better to die than give that information." On the appointed day, he fled card. Three weeks later, he sailed for Jakarta.

December was set

But the ship, loaded with escaping Timorese, was being followed. An Abri patrol boat caught up with it, and soldiers

tives were fingerprinted, identified, and removed from the ship. But Putu had grown his hair long, and his fake 1D was marked with a Kupang, not a Dili address. Alone among his friends, he remained on the boat. He arrived at Tanjung Priok, the port of Jakarta, in February last year. Remarkably, compared with

in the world, the East Timorese have never resorted to terrorism outside their own borders. There is no Timorese IRA or ETA; instead, young people like Putu loosely organise themselves in clandestine organisations with endearingly Ian Fleming-like acronyms such as Smid and Sprim and Pijar. Their weapons are lightning demonstrations, timed to inflict maximum diplomatic embarreturn for a rassment on the Indonesian government and the foreign lude with it. In the past year, dozens of Timorese have scaled the walls of Jakarta's embassies to seek political asylum.

Among them was one of Putu's brothers. Six others are in hiding; only his mother and sisters remain in Timor. "I regret leaving my home, but I have no other choice, and I have to accept it to continue the struggle. I have achieved nothing compared to those who were killed defending the truth. I don't want to die but if the time comes I will be ready." All wars have victims and beneficiaries, but Putu is not quite either. He is a product of his conflict, devoted to it, and completely untroubled by doubt or even fear. When you ask him what he would be if there had been no invasion and no war, he laughs because he doesn't



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> Mercia was an Anglo-Saxon kingdom that flourished in the ninth century, especially under King Offa. It hasn't flourished much since, or, to put it another way, it hasn't existed since AD 1000. Yet people still believe in it enough to name a police force after it! It's uncanny. It's weird. It's a bit like Wessex.

(See Hardy's Wessex.) Hardy's Wessex Hardy's Wessex is an imagi-

his is sometimes said to be a particularly of getting people who haven't read Hardy's books to a place which has changed out of all recognition since Hardy wrote about it. It is of a piece with Shakespeare's Stratford and Wordsworth's Lakeland

and Jane Austen's Bath and Bronte Country and all the other things which come from something that doesn't exist called the heritage (see Heritage). Even living writers get the treatment. James Herriott, the best-selling vet, once said on TV that he had seen an ad for a botel, set "In The Heart of Herriott Country". The ad had concluded: 'Šorry – No Animais !".

Heritage Our heritage does exist, but not in the form that Virginia Bottomley and Stephen Dorrell pretend it does. For them, heritage is merely the historical wing of the tourist industry (see Millennium). But a real heritage, like happiness or heredity, is something that can only exist when you don't talk about it. One's heritage is something that hovers in the air and is part of the way you think. You can't isolate it in a test tube. You certainly can't isolate it



Everyday life in the land of make-believe

Miles Kington

in a government ministry.

Millennium Nobody can agree on the date of the millennium (2000? 2001?). Nobody can agree when Christ was born. Nobody can agree if it should be a Christian date or a calendar date. Nobody can even agree how it should be celebrated Otherwise, fine. Forests

We haven't had a proper forest in Britain since, well, since we last cut them all down. But this doesn't prevent us referring to the Forest of Dean, the New Forest, Sherwood Forest, and so on. Forests? I think not. Post-modernism Nobody knows what post-

modernism is. Nobody can define it, apart from vague references to a period of finde-siècle eclecticism - ie, a time when you could borrow from all styles because there was no real style around. The fact is that there is no such thing as post-modernism. What has happened is that because modernism has gone on so long, the pundits felt that there must be something coming to follow it, and it might as well be called postmodernism. But that doesn't prove that there IS something. Post-modernism is a bit like Balti cooking. They felt it was time for a new fashion in Indian cooking, so they came up with Balti, which nobody in India had ever heard of before.

The Olympic spirit The true modern Olympic spirit is the urge to win at all costs, no matter how much time, drugs, money and sponsorship it takes. This has replaced the traditional Olympic spirit which says that it is better to take part than win, and which no

longer exists except in pub darts, and not always then. Greenspan

In many quarters Greenspan is thought to be an ecologi-cal movement which reaches across from the USA and tells the London stock market what to do. This is not so. Greenspan is a kind of unripe orange.

The special relationship The only special thing about the special relationship, apart from the fact the the Americans are unaware of it, is that it does not exist. Care

The word "care" used to mean compassion. It now means some organisation desperately trying to make up for the shortcomings of some other organisation, such as "care in the community". It sounds a bit like "core", another modern cliché meaning nothing more than "basic" or "cen-tral" but SOUNDING a lot more important. An ideal modern name for a garage would be "Core Car Care".

More non-existent phenomena coming soon - the Commonwealth, democracy, truth, Govemment transport policy, etc!



The relative value of mice and men

oday the Nobel prizes are handed out in Stock-holm City Hall. To coincide with the awards, a poll of all living medical Nobel laureates has been held and its

results are now published.
It is surprising to find unanimity amongst scientists, but according to the poll all these distinguished medical researchers are agreed: the use of animals in research has been vital to medical progress and continues to be so.

A British patients' group called Seriously III for Medical Research asked all living laureates in medicine and physiology for their views on the use of animals in medical research. 100 per cent of them agreed with these statements: "Animal experiments have been vital to the discovery and development of many advances in physiology and medicine", and "Animal experiments are still crucial to the investigation and development of many medical

The Seriously III for Medical Research group is a tough bunch of campaigners, all 400 of them suffering from incurable diseases. They fear that the animal rights campaigners are increasingly endangering med-

ical research that might find a cure for their illnesses. Founder and director of the campaign is 34-year-old Andrew Blake, who suffers from the wasting disease Fried-reich's ataxia. The treasurer has multiple sclerosis and the chair is mother of a child with cystic fibrosis. The group is backed by Stephen Hawking and other distinguished scientists. Andrew Blake sets out to counter the arguments of "animal rights activists peddling pseudo-scientific nonsense attempting to per-suade the public, at the expense of seriously ill patients, that animal research is not necessary."

However, this group's direct interest in the success of medical research has not protected them from the extreme animal rights activists. Andrew Blake regularly receives threats, a recent one of which read, "Your support for vivisection makes you a target. You have been warned." But they have not been intimidated and they offer support to those researchers under direct attack: there are some 1,000 animal rights attacks a year.

Recently Dr David White, an immunologist who works on the current best hope for transplants, has been a target. He breeds pigs with a human gene which may produce an unlimited supply of organs for transplantation. His home has been wrecked three times and a hose pipe put through a skylight, so water poured through the house for a whole weekend. The whereabouts of his laboratory is now a deadly secret.

The press has often stirred up hatred of animal researchers - a part of our deeply antiscience culture. The Sun once printed a doublepage spread with the names of animal archers, including that of Professor Terry Partridge. He says: "It printed who we were and where we could be found, and grossly misrepresented our work on muscle disease, saying we used animals unnecessarily. We do use mice



Toynbee Animal rights groups are a threat to vital medical

research

with muscular dystrophy for our research, because we have

s the Tory leadership -John Major, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Hesel-

tine - holding the Euro-

pean door open for the

Labour Party, so that when their defeat comes, Britain's place in the EU is safeguarded? There are plenty of senior Labour people who think so.

There are plenty of Tory nationalists who snari so.

For the anti-European right

who have so changed the terms

of British politics, and who

now claim a solid majority in Parliament and among Tory activists, this would be an his-

toric betrayal of the Conserva-

tive Party. It would be "undemocratic". But then, for

convinced pro-Europeans, to

close the door on monetary

union would be an historic

betrayal of the national interest.

merest whiff of this. He wouldn't

put party advantage before national advantage, he warned the right. What about Clarke and Heseltine, the most forceful Tory politicians of their gener-

ations? Well, if you are in favour of Europe, inclined towards monetary union, and also sup-porters of the welfare state,

which way would you vote?

I am, of course, being mal-icious. Clarke and Heseltine

may disagree with Major on much. However, like him, they

are viscerally anti-Labour and deeply hostile to Tony Blair's

programme for political reform.

But there is now a closer corres-

pondence between official Tory policy on Europe and Labour thinking, than there is between, say, Ken Clarke's position and

John Redwood's. On monetary

union, there is a difference

between Major, who sees a con-

stitutional problem, and Blair,

who doesn't; but both are for-

mally committed to waiting and

keeping the option of member-

ship open. Since this has be-

come such an unpopular posi-

tion in Britain, it is worth explaining why. As I have argued before, the real question is not EMU; it is the EU itself.

There is already a European

hard core which excludes

Britain. Before the important

European ministerial meetings,

there are informal get-togethers

of the French and Germans,

plus some others. British min-

isters are never invited, Indeed,

they occasionally become aware

of the pre-meeting caucus be-

cause of accidental remarks

dropped in the formal meeting.

Sometimes, they forget I

wasn't there," says one minister.

The unease and suspicion of

John Major's defence of his position at the weekend had the

Britain has the most stringent laws in the world on laboratory animals - laws forced on to the statute books by animal lobbyists. As a result, much important animal research is now going abroad, where it is easier to work, although Britain has always excelled in developing new drugs. The 1986 Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act has had 20 different codes of prac-tice and guidelines added to it since it was passed, seriously impeding research. Ten of these have come into force in the last two years because of heightened animal rights pressure. Enforc-ing the regulations have cost research establishments and universities some £800 million - money that should have been spent on the research itself. The bureaucracy is appalling. It takes months to get a permit, and the Home Office requires a monthly report. All projects need three separate licences. Then the lab has to be licensed with trained keepers and a vet

on call. Each scientist has to

take compulsory training, and

an exam, to get another licence.

Professor Colin Blakemore

has been a frequent target because he has dared to defend animal experimentation publicly. He says that the most distinguished Nobel laureates are no longer allowed to come over to Britain to collaborate on projects because they are not licensed by these new stringent rules - and they can hardly be asked to take extra exams on

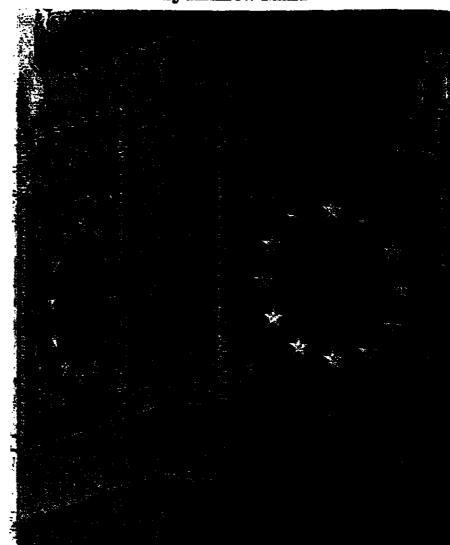
British regulations. The membership and support for the British Union of Anti-Vivisectionists, the National Anti-Vivisection Society and others continues to rise, and these groups exert ever-growing political influence. All the parties have armed themselves with pro-animal statements and policies for the next election. The Conservatives boast that they introduced "the toughest controls on animal experimentation in Europe". and the party promises that it is working hard to add a protocol on animal welfare to the

Treaty of Rome. Labour promises yet more regulation: "We will support a Royal Commission to review the effectiveness and justification of animal experiments and to examine alternatives." They also promise what they call "the three Rs: reduction in the number of animals used, refinement to cut down their suffering, and their replacement whenever possible with non-animal methods." Ominously, Labour promises "signifi-

cantly increased inspection Dr Peter Doherty collects his Nobel prize today for work on the immune system, working towards a cure for cancer, Aids and diabetes. He has to use transgenic mice in his work, and says so publicly: "There is no alternative to the use of animals for analysing the complexity of immunity." The logo for the Seriously Ill for Medical Research group shows a scale with a human on one side and a mouse on the other. The danger is that the scales have tipped too far in favour of the mouse.

Tories who chime with Europe

by Andrew Marr



The anti-Brussels forces fear an historic betrayal of the Conservative Party

discussions are happening without them is behind some, at least, of the institutional bias towards greater integration. As The Economist's current advert puts it, the edge of a conversation can be one of the loneliest places in the world. But it is the lonely place where Britain's political class now lives. They operate and haggle in the shadow of a European hard core that is forming before

their eves. If monetary union took place and ran successfully, with Britain standing outside, then that informal shadow of a hard British ministers who feel that core would become perma-

nent. The EMU block would have brick walls, in which it would meet without Britain. Its discussions would not be limited to monetary policy. They would talk about trade, environmental regulations, transport plans, regional aid, and so on. And this would become indistinguishable from the decision-making process of the rest of the EU. This is what pro-European ministers really fear. It is quite one thing if monetary union is imposed. slandash, on a wide range of divergent economies and then, quickly, collapses. No one in

the Tory party wants to be

involved with that. But it is quite another if the EMU core becomes the ruling body of part of the world. For Britain to be outside that, ceding leadership to our traditional Continental rivals, centinely worries the cabinet moderates. The anti-Brussels Tories talk

of "British independence" is optimistic. They paint a picture of a young-again, vigorous, free-trading nation, moving swiftly through the global brine of the early 2000s, a buccaneer among the slow-moving galleans of Continental Europe, And, let us admit it, this is possible. It would require Britain

to go further in scrapping pro-tection for workers, in cutting taxes, in letting the underpaid and under-educated go hang. There is a real choice in trying for a harsher, in some senses less civilised, country in the hope that it would also become a tougher and eventually more successful country too. But it would be a risky, semi-revolutionary, undertaking. The economics would not be easy. It would mean jeopardising the Asian investment upon which so many people depend. Given our monetary record, it would mean an interest-rate premium, and also the risk of covert protectionism from the Continent. Politically, too, there would be penalties that the anti-Brussels politicians generally refuse to face. Scotland might go a different way from England, to great confusion and complic-ation. And in due course, whether that happened or not. London would lose her place at the world's top table. The G7 group

would become G3: Europe, Japan and the US. And so on. Maybe that doesn't matter so much. What cannot be seri-ously suggested is that this breakaway from the European path is cost-free or safe. It is more dangerous, more radical, and would probably involve a greater change in our national life, than a further stage of European integration. Anti-Brussels Tories suggest that the choice facing Britain is a dangerous leap in the dark towards European federalism, or a reas-suring reaffirmation of our national traditions. In fact, for this small, unreformed country, there are no easy options.

Blair and Clarke, or Brown and Heseltine, are not men with a history of cordial personal relations. Labour and the Tory moderates disagree about devol-ution, the Lords, welfare and much else. But on Europe, they all think that it is more patriotic to stay in and even, in some cirunion. The anti-Brussels Tories. who have such resounding press support and have been setting parts of the political nation alight, see this coincidence of view (for it is not an alliance) as political treachery.

They are fine ones to talk. They have been waging a war inside their party for years. Now, with Labour far ahead in the polls, and pro-Europeans failing to surrender inside the Cabinel. they see a conjunction of forces that can scupper them and render their entire revolt ouite futile. And is this undemocratic? No; it is politics conducted under the British system.

Labour should listen carefully to nurse

ast week, in front of an andience of nurses, doc-tors and managers, the Labour Party unveiled its proposals for "a health service for a new century".

The audience were hoping for a visionary new policy, and almost nobody disagreed with the principles on which the new proposals to replace the NHS internal market were based, such as equity, quality, and responsiveness to need. Rhetoric, however, is easy. The core of the NHS is its

500,000 nursing staff. Despite being undervalued for years, their commitment to the Health Service is still strong, though many are now leaving for the greener pastures of private healthcare or other sectors. Their current problems, stemming from low pay and rock-bottom morale, include a crisis in recruitment, in retention (not enough nurses stay in the NHS) and in return (not enough come back after having children).

Nurses and midwives have nevertheless managed to improve patient care by insisting on better education, more research, stronger professional regulation and major advances in practice. All this has been achieved at great personal cost, in a climate mostly hostile to innovation.

GOO 7691

Most nurses are hoping for better times, perhaps under a Labour government. They know only too well that the Thries have no vision, comprehensive policy or strategy for nursing. But would Labour do any better? So far the answer, sadly, has to be no. Labour's details of implementation are deeply flawed, and

GPs are the last people who should direct the future of the

NHS, says Jane Salvage

base care priorities on epi-demiological and demographic

evidence of need, and on clin-

ical evidence of effectiveness.

This is all fine, but his notion

that it should be led by GPs is way off-beam. He talked of

strengthening GPs' commis-

sioning skills, but seems not to

realise that health visitors,

community physicians, epi-

demiologists and others are

already trained in these skills

and have been using them in

of most GPs is to get back to

their patients, not to spend

more time on management

and planning. They give indi-vidual, curative medical treat-

ment, not community-based, primary healthcare. What they

think matters most will often

differ from what others think

- patients, nurses, community

workers, voluntary organisa-

tions and so on. So, like good

care, planning must be based

on partnership and on co-

operation: Labour watchwords

in principle but not, it seems,

Smith argues that GPs are

normally the health service

professional closest to the

patient. That's not what most

people feel after their average

eight-minute consultation. It's

certainly not the view of the

thousands of patients who rely

Besides, the greatest desire

the reformed NHS.

carry through neither the logic mary healthcare and general practice. Smith promised to strategic vision.

Tarnished and shabby the NHS may be, but the jewel in Labour's crown is beloved by the public and health workers. It's also a voting issue. So why hasn't Labour got it right?

Without a firm promise of new money, its pledge to divert funds to patient care by cutting red tape is not enough. Conspicuous by its absence is any plan to revitalise the service by paying attention to the needs or views of its staff. Adding insult to injury is the spectacularly wrong-headed centrepiece of its plan - to replace GP fund-holding, and the resulting two-tier service, with groups led by GPs who would decide what treatment to organise on behalf of

In its efforts to remove market mechanisms from NHS planning and funding, Labour has reverted to an antediluvian vision of healthcare run by your friendly family doctor. How can it have missed such a golden opportunity? Maybe Chris Smith, the shadow health minister, should watch

Staying Afive rather than Dr Finlay's Casebook. Ignorance as well as nostalgia might also explain Labour's failure to move with the times. It doesn't understand the subtle but crucial difference between public health, pri-

the district nurse or the home help, or pour out their fears to the practice nurse because they are scared of wasting the doctor's time, or talk to the school nurse about their tmwanted pregnancy.
Why hasn't Labour noticed

the countless team-based projects which tackle health needs but do not set professional the doctor on a pedestal and the nurse in the sluice? Such projects are based on community participation and respect for everyone's perspectives and skills

Perhaps Labour thinks that sucking up to GPs will buy off the opposition. If it is terrified of the medical establishment, it's forgetting that the power of doctors isn't what it used to be. Don't they realize that nurses, the biggest group of NHS staff, can no longer be relied on as a safe Labour vote if they see no end to their exploitation?

Perhaps they have just lost their nerve. Labour says it does not want to cause unnecessary upheaval, but NHS staff don't want a cuddly version of the status quo. They will wel-come change in the right direction because they care deeply about the Health Service and want it to work.

Labour needs to think again if it is to win the confidence of NHS staff. Chris Smith should remember that policies and structures, however good on paper, can only be made to work by a well-motivated, highly valued and secure NHS workforce.

The writer, a registered murse, is for survival on daily visits from editor of Nursing Times'.

Is it right to promise heaven to a dying child?

tion was posed for me in its sharpest form yesterday by a friend - a priest - who sent me a copy of the funeral service for a six-year-old boy. The child had died of cancer, and he had some idea of what was coming. Some people believe that children can't understand death, but I have no doubt that they can understand as much of it as they need to; perhaps that is as

much as adults do. Part of the funeral service involved the congregation writ-ing their memories of the boy who had died: things they had said to him, and he to them. And one of the things said to him was that he would go to heaven, and that there would be a great party there, with balloons and all the other things that six-year-old children love. I flinched when I read this. It seemed to make the cruelty of

death unbearable. couple had sent me a booklet they'd had privately printed about the death of their child, blunder. They bore no bitterness or even ill-will towards the doctor, so convinced were they that their child was in heaven. agonies they had seen a soul finding God. I found that story impossible to follow up. Even to think about such assurance made me almost too angry to speak. They seemed to be putting me in an impossible position: either to try to destroy

About five years ago, another killed as a result of a doctor's and that watching his death

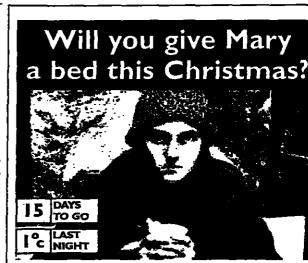
their illusions - and what could justify that? - or to share them. Tatters of this rage still warmed me yesterday as I

Then should we lie to thought about the funeral ser-children? The ques-vice - but only for a moment. The scale of this was different. It was a private affair, and clearly one which had been enormously moving and helpful for the people involved. And, contemplated coolly, what harm could it do to tell a child that when he died he would be

> It was not like telling him he would get better. That does seem to be absolutely wrong, at least in situations where you believe you are lying. The difficulty comes if we assume that no grown-up could possibly believe in heaven. I don't myself believe in it. My wife does. I don't know what we'd do if our daughter were dying. Probably we'd both lie, but I would know I was lying. It still

might be the right thing to do. Telling a child that he is going to heaven is different from pretending he will live. It might even be true. And if it were not true, if death did extinguish the child completely, it would extinguish, too, any possibility that he might have felt betrayed. The only thing that might make it wrong to tell a dying child he is going to heaven - if that is what his parents believe will happen - is the chance that he might end up in hell instead, where he would presumably be tormented by the knowledge that his parents had lied to him, as well as by other things. Millions of christians have believed that such a hell exists, and millions still do today. But to ignore the chance they might be right seems to me a risk worth taking. Yes, I would lie. I see that now.

Andrew Brown



At 16, Mary ran away from a life of abuse. Today she is homeless. Could you sleep easy on Christmas Eve knowing she was shivering in a bus shelter?

You can help keep Mary, and thousands of vulnerable people like her, safe and warm over Christmas, With £25 from you, Crisis can provide a warm bed, hot meals, clean clothes and someone to talk to at one of our shelters.

As the days count down to Christmas, over 2,000 homeless people are counting on Crisis. We're counting on you. Our service depends on public donations. So please send your £25 today - in time to help us buy the bedding, food and clothes we need to bring Mary in from the cold.

Countdown to Christmas

Yes, I'll keep homeless people warm: ☐ £15 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £250° other £. I enclose a cheque made payable to Crisis. OR debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ Access ☐ Switch[†] other ... Last three digits of Switch card no. 1 / Switch issue no. 1 Explry date _____ Signature _____ * Gifts of £250 or more are worth almost a third extra to us under Gift Aid

OR please phone our donation line 0500 10 99 99 Crisis, PO Box 13295, Preepost EDO3791, London El IBR Reg Conty (1986))

Bass bid for Carlsberg-Tetley referred to the MMC

Tom Stevenson City Editor

The attempt by Bass to recover its position as Britain's biggest brewer was put on ice yesterday after its pro-posed acquisition of Carlsberg-Tetley was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The MMC has until March to investigate the £200m deal, which would see Bass leapfrog Scottish & Newcastle into the beer-

A referral had been widely anticipated in the City following an ap-

parent tightening of competition at the Department of Trade and Industry. Two weeks ago, the proposed merger of P&O's and Stena's crossannel ferry services was unexpectedly sent to the MMC.

Bass is understood to have been unwilling to accept a compromise offer from the OFT, considering its proposed concessions too onerous. Industry observers had speculated that Bass might be forced to sell up to 1,000 tenanted pubs in order to

Bass has already acquired 50 per

from Carlsberg. If approved the deal would give Bass up to 38 per cent of the UK brewing market. ahead of Scottish & Newcastle's share of 30 per cent which was

boosted by last year's acquisition of Courage from Foster's of Australia. in a complex deal, Bass has retained a get-out clause if the deal is blocked or if any regulatory condi-tions prove unacceptable. It has a put option which would force Carls-

venture bought from Allied Although Bass would suffer a financial penalty by pulling out of the deal at this late stage, it is understood to be prepared to do so unless it can merge on its own terms.

Yesterday's referral was applauded by unions and consumer groups alike. The Transport and General Workers union welcomed the decision to refer the takeover to the MMC, saying there were important

Brian Revell, national secretary for

the drinks industry, said: "Our main concern is that if the takeover is allowed to proceed, at least 2,000 jobs are likely to be lost. However, we acknowledge that the situation is complicated and there is a possibility of a lesser number of jobs being lost if the takeover does not go ahead due

Carlsberg-Tetley is seen as the weakest player in an increasingly concentrated brewing market and there are concerns about its continuing ability to compete with Bass, S&N

to the competitive pressures in the

and Whitbread if it is not absorbed

Camra, the Campaign for Real Ale, also warmly welcomed the decision. "This merger would create the largest brewer in British history. The new enlarged Bass and Scottish Courage, the current number one, would have 70 per cent of the beer

"The takeover has severe implications for consumer choice. It is likely to lead to widespread brewery closures and job losses, particularly in distribution," said

campaigns manager Stephen Ca surprising given the large share of the beer market Bass would have gained from the deal. "Considering the com-bined entity would have 38 per cent of the brewing market, a referral was always considered likely", said Col-

in Humphreys at Panmure Gordon. Teather & Greenwood's Nigel Popham commented that if Labour wins a general election comes before the deal is cleared, the chance of goveroment could jeopardise the merger.

Shares rebound as calm returns

Tom Stevenson London David Usborne New York

Shares bounced back on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday as dealers took the view that they had over-reacted on Friday to remarks from Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan that had appeared to threaten higher interest rates. Rising share prices laid to rest fears of a rerun of 1987's Black Monday when stock markets collapsed

around the globe. Share traders received heavyweight support as Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer, speaking as chairman of the G-10 countries' central bank governors' committee, said financial markets had seen "some overreaction" to Mr Greenspan's comments on inflation. Éddie George, Governor of the Bank of England speaking in Switzerland, and US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin also made com-

ments designed to calm jittery

last week by warning of the dangers of "irrational exuberance" in stock markets. His a deliberate attempt to prick the bubble of soaring US share years, an 88-point drop. At one point shares had fallen 168

The FTSE 100 index of leadwere still awash with cash. Good news on inflation at

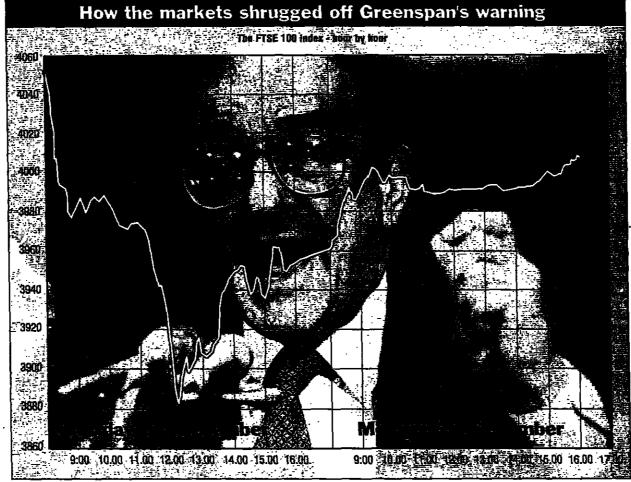
home also eased fears of higher interest rates, with no change in prices charged at the factory gate

The Fed chairman had

spooked markets at the end of comments, which were seen as prices, led to the London market's biggest one-day fall in four points, prompting fears of another crash.

ing shares closed 48.6 points higher at 4011.6 yesterday as a robust early performance from Wall Street calmed nerves and evidence continued that institutions in the UK and America

last month and a sharp drop in manufacturers' input prices



that the growth of sales on the high street slowed to its weakest for seven months. Andrew Higginson, head of economic affairs for the British Retail Consortium, said: "We are not in boom-time conditions."

City economists said the figures would allow the Chancel-

thanks to the strength of the lor to stave off any Bank of England pressure to increase interammunition for Mr Clarke in the debate," according to Jonathan Loynes at HSBC Markets.

In America, some analysts continued to insist that the broad outlook for the Dow remained overwhelmingly positive in spite of Mr Greenspan's words. While the Fed chairman has clearly sigble on the financial markets, few expect that he would seek to raise rates to burst it.

"I think we have a friendly Fed through the rest of this quarter and probably for the first quarter of next year," commented Arthur Hogan of Dean Witter. Mr Hogan is among analysts not ready to accept that US equities

"We still stand by the stance that this level can be justified,"

Markets around the world recovered their poise. In Tokyo, shares gained over 300 points, recovering almost half the losses of the previous trading session. The German market also regained about half the losses incurred in Friday's rout and French shares closed higher.

Clarke denies target for exchange rate

Diane Coyle

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told MPs yes-terday that he did not have a target for the exchange rate, whose strength has started to concern businesses. "I do not set interest rates to achieve a level for sterling," he said. The Chancellor insisted that

he was as determined as the Governor of the Bank of England to achieve the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target. The exchange rate was only one of a range of factors he looked at, he told the Treasury Select Committee, although agreeing that the surge in the pound had tightened

monetary conditions. However, Mr Clarke refused to accept that he was out on a limb in not increasing interest rates when a majority of economists said they would have to rise. "I don't just go out and count heads among financial adrisers," he said.

Much of the grilling MPs gave him yesterday focused on European Monetary Union. Mr Clarke stuck to the formula that a single currency would not be acceptable if the member economies had not achieved

genuine convergence.
"It is perfectly possible that I would be one of the most ve-

is whether the countries going into Emu are going to stay convergent and are genuinely compatible with each other.

However, Mr Clarke said the time for making a judgement about the amount of fudging of the Maastricht criteria would be in early 1998, on the basis of the actual figures for

He also insisted that Britain's Prime Minister must play as active a part as all the others in negotiations. "We ought to become clearer that part of our economic advantages in this country derive from our mem-bership of the EU," he insisted.

The Chancellor told MPs that he thought the argument was going in favour of a prag-matic and flexible "stability pact", the agreement for policing member countries budge deficits after the start of the single currency.

The Germans have been arguing for a rigid system of fines on excess deficits, but Mr Clarke said there was not much distance between his view and that of Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister. "The best penalties are never imposed," he said.

The UK's budget position was at least as satisfactory as that of other EU countries, he said. Mr Clarke refused to confirm, despite persistent questioning hement opponents of the UK that the tax burden would rise joining," he said. "What matters by more than £1bn next year.

Just a one-day wonder, but fears of a real crash remain

It was a one-day wonder, the mini-crash triggered by Alan Greenspan on Friday, And even so, the markets over-reacted to the Federal Reserve chairman's disapproving comments about their "irrational exuberance" according to another central bank governor, the Bank of England's Eddie George.

Yet the sudden dive in share prices around the globe did once again highlight fears that Wall Street was overvalued and headed for a crash, Investors can be excused for being conof opinion among the gurus

poised for a 1987-style tumble or whether the great bull mar-

ket can continue. In the gloomy camp are analysts who focus on a range of indicators of the underlying Most of these show that

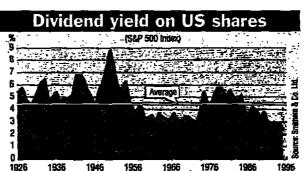
higher than their long-run relationships to other assets would justify Perhaps the most startling is

that the stock market capitalisation of American companies is nearly the same as the country's gross domestic product, according to calculations by Jim Bianco at Arbor Trading. The

about whether shares are normal ratio to GDP would be less than 50 per cent. Smithers, Andrew

Smithers & Co in London, puts the emphasis on "Tobin's q", the ratio of stock market value to the actual value of the underlying assets. Anything higher than one would point to shares equity prices in the US arc far getting out of line, but the ratio currently stands at 1.5, or more than two times its historical

The more conventional measures of whether shares are overvalued, the dividend yield and price-earnings ratio, are sending a similar signal. A measure of whether returns on equities are out of line with the



yield on long-term bonds, the dividend yield on the S&P500 index is just above 2 per cent, about half its average and below the 1987 level. The ratio of share prices to corporate earnings, at around 23, is below its then-high of 25, but possibly not far enough below. Mr Smithers says: "Why does

anybody doubt all of this evi- of 18-20, she calculates, because son, the UK strategist at indence? People are anxious to sell at the top, but nobody can possibly tell when that will be." Arguments that do not take account of all these stretched ratios are not rigorous, he

The optimistic case rests on the view that the numbers do not tell the whole story because market fundamentals have changed since 1987. For example, Abby Cohen, equity strateist at Goldman Sachs in New York, believes that a higher p/e ratio is warranted in an era of low inflation. Current low levels of US inflation have in the past been associated with ratios

investors are willing to pay more for a certain level of earnings when inflation is expected to remain low. David Shaw, at investment giant Legal & General in London.

backs this argument, noting that the trend rate of productivity growth has increased. This should mean healthy corporate profits growth over a sustained period.

Luckily for London, nobody believes shares on this side of the Atlantic are overvalued at all. London has underperformed other stock markets for the past three years. According to Richard David-

vestment bank Morgan Stanley, this down-rating has been due to the fear of higher inflation and political uncertainty. He says: "People have been ignoring the potential profits growth," and predicts that London will outperform other markets in what promises to be a turbulent 1997.

Mr Davidson reckons that on all the conventional ratios, UK shares will look very good value next year, with a p/e ratio of 12.5 compared with 17.9 for the US, for example. He adds that London tends to share in big Wall Street crashes, but can escape smaller corrections.

Labour set to bring in curbs on water profits

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Water companies' profits could be curtailed under a Labour government, the party's en-

vironment spokesman announced vesterday. Labour's second annual report on the water industry. published by Frank Dobson, says that the party is not pre-pared to allow soaring profits coupled with higher bills and

The report attacks price levers, which it says have gone have totalled £11.1bn in the six tomatically be cut.

up by more than 40 per cent while the number of incidents in which customers have had their supply cut off has also grown. Last year the number of interruptions lasting more than 12 hours doubled to more than 130.00D.

Labour's report, based on three official publications released last week, says that prosecutions of water companies for polluting streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs is now running at a rate of three per month.

At the same time, profits a certain level, prices would au-

years since privatisation, and the heads of water companies have voted themselves more than £20m in pay and perks this year. Capital investment in water has been cut by £361m in the

while profits have risen in every year but one. Total investment last year was £2.3bn. Mr Dobson said a Labour government might set up a new pricing policy which would link water rates to profits. It would mean that if profits rose beyond

Utilities would still be able to keep a share of the excess profits, so there would be still be an incentive to work for greater efficiency. Part of the to ensure that profits were not money should be used for investment, while the rest should be shared between shareholders

and consumers. Mr Dobson said: "The privatisation of the water industry has been a bad deal for customers, taxpayers and the environment. But water privatisation has been good for profits, and it has been better

said there was adequate provision under the existing system excessively large.

"A lot of companies have already shared profits with customers in the form of rebates. If they have made efficiency savings, we would encourage companies to do that at the carliest possible opportunity. Otherwise they will be shared with customers at the next price re-

Today the Liberal Democrat

A spokeswoman for the Of-fice of Water Services, Ofwat, out his party's plans for cusout his party's plans for customers to be given voting rights in the water companies. He believes that such privately owned monopolies give consumers little power to affect the way they are run, and that this needs to

Mr Ashdown will tell the National Consumers' Council as there is little competition between the water companies and no choice for their customers, there should be new controls on

Pearson team could launch radical revamp next month

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

New management at Pearson, the media and information conglomerate, are reviewing detailed strategy papers on the future of the company. This could lead to a radical restructuring that could be launched as early as next month.

According to sources at Pearson, a round of meetings will be held from 8 January, the date on which Marjorie Scardino, the company's new chief executive. formally takes over from the retiring Frank Barlow.

On the agenda will be the future status of the company's television subsidiary, which groups Thames Television and Grundy Worldwide, as well as plans to sell theme parks operated under the Madame Tussauds name.

Also under consideration is a possible sale to management of the 50 per cent Pearson holds in Lazard, the investment bank. Pearson would be left with its publishing and information operations, which are viewed as core assets.

A limited number of the secret strategy documents, which are numbered and circulated only to senior managers, have been sent to Ms

Scardino, who is winding up her job as chief executive of the Economist Group, 50 per cent owned by Pearson. They will be discussed in committee, and final decisions will be taken in the course of 1997.

Pearson has been under pressure in recent months to restructure its sprawling operations, which range from the Financial Times to Penguin Books to Mindscape, a moneylosing US manufacturer of CD. Roms and game cartridges. Analysis have suggested that

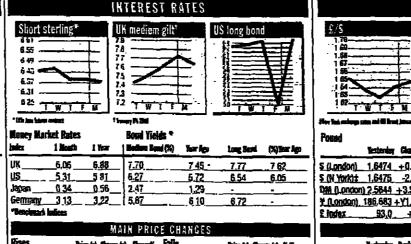
Pearson would remain a takeover target unless it moved to streamline its businesses. They have calculated that Pearson could be worth between £9 and £10 a share if broken up, compared with its closing price yesterday of 706.5p. Pressure from the City led to the early retirement of Mr Barlow and Lord Blakenham, the chairman. Dennis Stevenson, a long-time Pearson board member, is to replace Lord Blakenham in the spring.

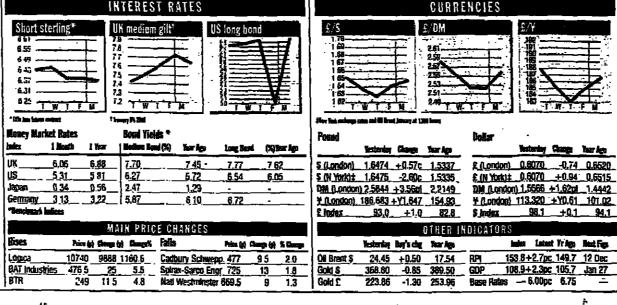
Senior management stressed however, that no decisions had yet been taken on which assets. if any, would be sold. When Ms Scardino's appointment was announced in October, she said that we have no strategic prejudices and will start with a clean slate".

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STOCK MARKETS





COMMENT 'How Bass came to think a deal that would give the new group nearly 40 per cent of the UK beer market even remotely possible is something

of a mystery'



Derhaps predictably, Bass has lost round one of its attempt to merge its brewing inter
Since then Mr Lang has attempted to shift ests with Carlsberg-Tetley. Equally predictably of Bass drops up to £60m if this deal does not go through — its threat to pull out altogether in the event of the Government referring the deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has proved so much hot air. Bass is going to pursue its case through to the bit-

ter end, which in this case is all too probable. How it is that Bass came to think a deal that would give the new group nearly 40 per cent of the UK beer market even remotely possible is something of a mystery. There are very few industries (national newspapers is a rare example) where such a degree of con-centration would be tolerated. But to be fair on Bass, the authorities have given some encouragement to the view that this might just be allowed. For a start there was Michael Heseltine, who while president of the Board of Trade championed a "big is

beautiful, anything goes" mergers policy.
The present incumbent, Ian Lang, didn't actually make the decision, but it was under his rule that the DTI allowed Scottish & Newcastle to acquire Courage with only limited conditions. By waiving through this deal, the authorities appeared to abandon the old, unwritten rule that any merger resulting in a market share of more than a quarter would automatically get referred. Scottish & New-

Since then Mr Lang has attempted to shift the emphasis back to a more overthy procompetition stance. Even so, Bass continued to believe the authorities could be convinced. Good progress has been made, it argues, in separating retail from production, and in any case the merger would allow an orderly rationalisation of excess capacity. Furthermore, last week's decision to allow the British Airways link up with American, subject to con-ditions, seemed further evidence that with

the right concessions, Bass could succeed too. But although Bass can reasonably point to inconsistencies in policy, it surely couldn't honestly have thought such a radical shake-up of the industry would be allowed without thorough investigation, whatever the safeguards offered. In the absence of any convincing arguments to the contrary, it is hard to see how such concentration could do anything other than harm consumer interests. With £60m at risk should this deal fail, shareholders can only hope that so far Bass has kept its powder dry.

An old draft from New Labour

Not much evidence of New Labour in Frank Dobson's policy statement on the castle ended up with more than 30 per cent water industry issued yesterday. A quick read of the market, encouraging Bass to believe of its 11 pages reveals a quite unmistakable

whiff of old attitudes mixed in with some | lower prices. There is nothing particularly familiar, tried and failed solutions.

The shadow environment secretary's starting point is that, in so far as the water industry is concerned, profit is still a dirty word, and as a result he's not going to allow water companies to make any. Depending on who you talk to, for the Labour Party seems to have almost as many positions on these matters as the Tory Party does on Europe, the Dobson approach might apply to other utilities as well.

Politically, there is no doubt that he's on to a winner here, for most people take the view that since water and sewage are public services they should not be allowed to make profits period, let alone anything that might be regarded as "excess" profit. The unfor-tunate truth is that generally people don't understand the role of profit in public ser-vices. Seventeen years of Conservative Party rule does not seem to have changed attitudes very much on this front.

So with the ballot box in mind, Labour is probably backing the right horse. If it pursues this line of attack, however, it won't actually be doing anyone, least of all the public, any good. In fact, it will probably be harming the public interest. Here's why.

What Labour proposes is that profit be capped each year at a level it regards as reasonable and normal, and that to the extent new about this. A variant of it was used to regulate some of our utilities in the last century and it is a common form of economic regulation in other countries, particularly the US. In the jargon it is known as "annual formular profit sharing".

But just because it has been tried before doesn't mean it has much to commend it. In truth this is a flawed approach the effect of which, when added to the windfall profit tax. would be highly retrogressive, returning these companies to the plodding, inefficient state they were in as nationalised industries. Perhaps that is what the public wants, but it carries with it a big sacrifice.

The present system of price cap regula-tion provides a powerful incentive to improved efficiency, for it allows companies to keep any profits they earn over and above the regulator's assumed "reasonable" level. The result, particularly in the years immediately after privatisation, is much higher profits than might be thought appropriate.

However, the system allows this to be corrected through periodic reviews of charges when the regulator claims for the customer all the efficiency gains achieved in the pre-vious five years. What Labour wants to do is move these reviews on to an annual basis and, moreover, hand back to customers at least some of any profits earnt in the previthat this is exceeded, the benefit should be ous year over and above the established lie to their custor handed back to customers in the form of normal level. Mr Dobson is intentionally Party document).

It can readily be seen that the effect of this will be to remove all incentive to efficiency. Far from benefiting customers, it would ulti-mately harm them for it would result in higher long-term prices, not lower ones.

There's not much chance of Mr Dobson

changing his mind on this, but in the line of duty and without any hope of Britain's government-in-waiting listening to sense on this issue, here's a possible compromise. Ian Byatt, the water regulator, is already experimenting with a voluntary form of profit sharing which seems to answer some of Labour's concerns. Companies which voluntarily forego some of their allowed price increase are allowed to roll this benefit over into the next price review period.

The effect of this is to change the profile of profits and prices. The present "excess" in profits is reduced but equally the extent of the customer claw back at the time of the review is limited too. In other words, customers get the benefit of efficiency gains immediately rather than having to wait for them. At the same time the system retains its present incentive to improved efficiency.

Then again, this is obviously too reasonable an approach for someone who believes that water privatisation is a "seandal", that Ofwat is "ineffective and inadequate", and that water companies routinely lie to their customers (yesterday's Labour

Design Whish

European row threatens **BA** alliance

Peter Rodgers

A row in the European Commission over the legality of selling take-off and landing slots at airports yesterday threatened to undermine the British Airways-American Airlines alliance, depite clearance last week by the ritish government.

lan Lang, president of the Board of Trade, agreed on Friday to the alliance on condition the airlines surrender 168 of their slots, and the department said over the weekend that the



Neil Kinnock: In favour of selling airport slots

remal

airlines would also be allowed thought to be worth £1m to £10m each.

Sources close to Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, yesterday cast doubts on this, saying selling slots was illegal and increased the chances of the commission find-

competitive. But Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner, is understood to reject Mr Van Miert's not illegal". analysis, and he is hoping to announce formal recognition of the policy of selling slots early

A turf war over the issue appears to be under way within the Commission, with Mr Kinnock in charge of airline policy but diction over the deal.

Mr van Miert the commissioner responsible for vetting mergers - and therefore in a powerful position to influence BA's deal with American.

A spokesman for Mr Kinnock confirmed that he wanted to clarify the rules in a way that would legitimise the widespread practice in the airline industry of selling slots. He said: "Slot selling is an

economic reality and it is done all the time. So are we going to try to fight against reality or are we going to try to give a frame-work to this practice in order to avoid monopolies and guarantee fair competition?

Transport specialists in the commission describe the rules acknowledged that Mr Van Miert took a different view.

One source pointed out that at the end of the day Mr Van Miert had to take the issue to his peers, and the final decision would be taken by the Commission as a whole. Mr Kinnock will then be able to make his case. In London, the Department of Trade and Industry said it believed slot selling was perfectly

legal. A spokeswoman added "We have checked with them [the Commission) the legislation as to auction the slots. These are regards slot trading. They have come back to us and have not said the regulations prohibit slot trading. If they were to, we would obviously look very care-

fully at it."

The Brussels regulation stated "slots may be freely exchanged between airline carriing the proposed alliance anti-ers or transferred by an airline

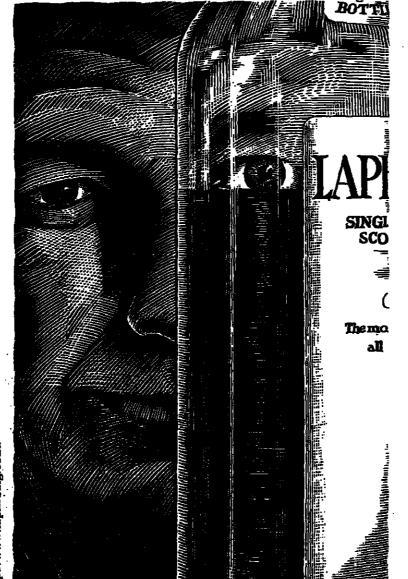
> BA said "we are advised by our experts that it is certainly

> Commission sources said there were still serious doubts about the transatlantic deal because of the threat to competition, though the British government and BA privately dispute the commission's juris-

a thin line between

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the bottle.

You may love your first sip. You may loathe it. The attraction of Laphroaig (la-froyg) isn't always immediate. It could take a few drams, or a few days. Somewhere down the line you might grow to appreciate its rich aroma of blue peat smoke. Or warm to its earthy saltiness. Then again, you might not.

Market turmoil halts float plans

Patrick Tooher

Last week's turmoil on the retailers. London stock exchange claimed its first victims in the new issues market yesterday when two companies unexpectedly cancelled their flotation plans. Morgan Crucible, the spe-

cialist engineering group, said it had postponed plans to spin off Emblem Technology, its aerospace, sensors and instruments division, due to the adverse state of the stock market. And Discovery Inns, and independent pub operator, also

The new issues market has boomed this year on the back of a record-breaking run for equities, with many offers for sale

day's correction, which at one stage saw the FTSE 100 index most 170 points, has made some would-be newcomers

The decision to pull the Discovery flotation is particularly significant because investors

insatiable appetite for pub

Discovery was earmarked for a main market with a price tag of £50m to provide an exit for venture capital backers led by Kleinwort Benson.

Set up in 1992 as a vehicle to acquire 223 pubs from Whitbread in England and South Wales, it has expanded recently with purchases from Marstons and Allied Domeco.

It is positioned half-way between the managed themed chains such as Wetherspoon blamed recent stock market and Tom Cobleigh, whose conditions for its decision not shares have soared this year, to proceed with plans for a and the groups of tenanted pubs run by the likes of Enterprise and Century.

Morgan Crucible had hoped to raise £40m from the Emblem float as part of plans to focus on heavily oversubscribed. But Friits core industrial ceramics and specialist chemicals businesses. Proceeds from the flotation, of leading shares slump by al- handled by Panmure Gordon, would have gone to strengthen Morgan's balance sheet by reducing gearing from 40 per cent to 30 per cent. Dealings in the shares were due to begin this month.

LAPHROAIG no half measures.

Data Bank **FTSE 100** 4011.6+48.6 **FTSE 250** 4385.0+36.9 **FTSE 350** 1991.8+22.5 SEAQ VOLUME



Footsie takes heart from confidence in New York

The stock market enjoyed the of the Bundesbank, talking crash that never was. Fears Grey Friday would be followed by Black Monday were quickly swept aside as Footsie built on a confident opening. hinder Footsie's comeback. By the close the index was up

48.6 points, returning above 4,000 and reclaiming more than half Friday's slump. Government stocks rose by around £1. On Friday US influences spooked the market. US banking chief Alan Greenspan created alarm when he talked about the "irrational exuberance" of stock markets and shares around the world col-

lapsed, expecting New York to follow their example. But American investors, for more robust than many expected. When London opened yesterday the betting was on New York staging a rally.
.* did not disappoint. And

about "some overreaction" to Mr Greenspan, there was not an audible dissenting voice to

The crash could, some reasoned, be something of a blessing in disguise, removing much of the pressure for another interest rate increase. The monthly Ken and Eddie meeting occurs tomorrow and the Chancellor could feel his case for unchanged rates has been reinforced by Friday's shocks. With the Bank of England governor seemingly less keen to press for higher charges tomorrow's get together looks

likely to be a non event. Still the market could face once, were made of sterner a turbulent week. New York's stuff and New York was rather confidence has been ruffled and the splits in the Tory ranks have not even been papered over. Thursday's Barnsley elec-

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

resist Friday's onslaught, con-

tinued to stretch from its year's

low, gaining 11.5p to 249p. Cadbury Schweppes, the

soft drinks to sweets group,

melted 9.5p to 477p. There were stories of profit down-

gradings as the company

started a series of investment

meetings. ABN Amro Hoare

Govett was said to be among

the securities houses to lower

Tate & Lyle, the sugar

Scottish Television shaded

group, was another in presen-

tation mode - off 7p to 458p.

1p to 679p. It has discovered

sie at one time down 168.5 points, has already hit two flotations. Discovery Inns, a managed and tenanted pubs chain, and Wise Speke, the stockbroker, have postponed their plans to sell shares to investors.

The 48.6 index gain was scored on the back of thin trading. Few investors were prepared to chance their arm; content to sit on the sidelines until the still hazy investment scene becomes somewhat

BAT Industries led the Footsie gainers, scoring a 25p gain to 476.5p. A 60 page buy circular from Merrill Lynch

a large shareholder in the shape of Chase Nominees. Apparently Chase has ac-

quired 3.85m shares (6.34 per cent) but Scottish does not know when, from where or the identity of the beneficial owner. It only discovered the ex-

tent of Chase's involvement when the nominee house responded to a 212 notice which obliges a company to reveal its shareholding. Sedgwick, the insurance broker, was given a takeover whirl with US groups named as likely

predators. The shares gained 5p to 126.5p. Commercial Union rose 4p to 664.5p on bid speculation; GRE was another in the bid arena, up 10p at 273p. The story of an Abbey Na-tional deal with Prodential Corporation continued to go the rounds with Abbey up 10p to 691p and the Pru 4.5p to 485.5p.

Greycoat, the property group, fell 2p to 154p as Moor-field Estates, a much smaller group, abandoned its ambitious takeover bid. Moorfield firmed

The Labour Party's latest move to tap into the profits of utilities produced some spillage among the waters but electricities were generally a few pence higher. BT slipped 3.5p to 393.5p.

Bass shrugged off the not-unexpected referral of its bid for Carlsberg-Tetley to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, gaining 14.5p to 803.5p as the market decided to concentrate on the merits of a possible US hotel deal. Other brewers were strong, with Whithread up 13.5p to 770p and Scottish & Newcastle 19p

to 672.5p.

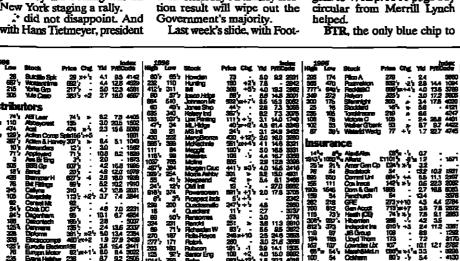
Lanica Trust, aiming for a mail order future, posted a 195p gain to 895p; the shares have risen from 56p since it was first realised Andrew Regan, ex-Hobsons, was involved. The three major shareholders have sold 825,000 shares following a pledge to increase the outTaking Stock

Struggling Owen & Robinson held at 11.25p. Former chairman Maurice Dwek has sold 1.6 million shares and now has a 1.95 per cent stake. Egon von Greyerz, the former Dixons executive, is the new leading light at O&R and is thought to be keen to develop the remaining sportswear

Parkwood, involved in park maintenance and leisure contracts, has picked up work worth £10m since publishing its prospectus and now has contracts valued at £68m under its belt. Its shares, placed at 65p by Wise Speke, are due to start trading today.

Sunderland FC's flotation by Charterhouse Tilney is apparently going well with the offer oversubscribed and likely to be fixed near the top of the price range. Dealings should start on Christmas Eve.

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Airmotive deal gives BBA focus

Since failing to snap up Lucas, a rival twice its size, for £2.4bn in the summer BBA has bent over backwards to reassure investors it is not another clapped-out industrial conglomerate

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desperately seeking a mega-deal to drive sluggish earnings forward. Soothing words from aggressive chief executive Roberto "Give No" Quarta about bolt-on acquisitions and organic growth have proved to be more than just talk. First a strong set of interim results in September underlined Mr Quarta's ability to grow businesses rather than to just buy them. Now Mr Quarta has moved to allay concerns that BBA lacks focus.

While enjoying critical mass in fric-tion materials (brake pads and linings) and non-woven fabrics (as used in nap-ples and filters), questions marks have nung over the future and strategic fit of its aviation and specialised electri-

Yesterday BBA addressed one of these concerns by paying \$185m (£113m) for International Airmotive Holding, a Dallas-based specialist in corporate jet maintenance.

In servicing both fixed-wing and helicopter turbine engines, as well as distributing parts for the business aviation market. Airmotive should complement Signature, BBA's flight support division. Both serve a similar customer base and are recognised as leaders in their US markets.

In the nine and a half month period from March to December 1995, the last period for which audited accounts are available, Airmotive made pre-tax profits \$5m on sales of \$150m.

The deal, which awaits regulatory approval, also means 40 per cent of BBA's business is driven by lucrative aftermarket business - whether for car brake pads or aircraft overhaul and repair.

BBA is assuming \$104m (£63.4m) of debt, but the Airmotive deal is still expected to boost earnings in the first full year before any one-off restructuring costs. Although the purchase is being funded out of existing resources, cash flow is strong, so bringing debt back on to the balance sheet should not prove too much of a strain.

Evidence of BBA's greater strategic focus also came yesterday with the com-pletion of its DM92m (£36m) purchase of Corovin, a leading German producer of polypropylene-based non-woven fabrics. This deal, the first since the abortive Lucas takeover, brings with it consolidated debts of up to DM86m. All this wheeler-dealing leaves the

specialist electricals division as the only existing business area where BBA still needs to do a deal. As one analyst put it: "It is either double or bust." But with the shares closing 9p higher at 353.5p, it seems the City can live with .

that uncertainty for the time being at

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

BBA: at a glance

Market value; £1.46bn, share price 353.5p

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North America

least. Even assuming an unfavourable sterling rate of \$1.65, broker UBS has raised its full-year forecast by £3m to £166m, putting the shares on a multi-ple of less than 14. Undemanding.

Ideal nets a dream position

Ideal Hardware has been an ideal investment since it came to the market two years ago at just 225p. Earlier this year the shares peaked at 683p, and after better-than-expected figures for the six months to November yesterday they closed 5p better at 642.5p.

To have a strong share of a fast growing market is any company's, and

investor's, dream. Ideal, with about 14 per cent of the distribution market for computer memory devices, is in just that fortunate position. Sales of hard disks and the like are expected to grow twice as fast as any other part of the computer market in the next few years as new applications continue to make ever bigger demands on data storage

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

nland Europe

Dividencis per share (pence)

TUTAOVET (continuing trusiness)

After a 24 per cent rise in turnover to £75.6m (£60.9m) in the first half, profits grew by 28 per cent to £3.75m (£2.93m). Earnings per share rising at the same rate to 11.7p allowed a 24 per cent dividend hike to 5.2p.

Operating in a cut-throat business like computer distribution, Ideal has had to work hard to stand out from the crowd and it has not been afraid to adopt some pretty radical marketing

Its catalogue is available on the Internet and it broadcasts a weekly television programme to 500 of its biggest customers to keep them abreast of the rapid changes in a business which churns out 200 new products a week.

Analysis focused yesterday not just on the numbers, which have impressed ever since flotation, but on the way Ideal appears to be investing in the future in order to maintain its current explosive growth rate. A new 70,000 square foot warehouse will be fully operational next month, but more importantly the company is spending heavily on training its own staff to keep service levels high.

obviously cheap; now, despite the

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quality of the company, Ideal is a harder investment call. On the basis of forecast profits of £9.5m in the 12 months to the next year's new July year end and £12m the following year, the shares stand on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 22 falling to 17. That is a pretty punchy rating, but compared with a sustainable growth rate in the mid-20s, not demanding.

steel prices fall

Carclo Engineering is a world leader in card clothing, a vital component in the manufacture of textiles, while its wires are used to support almost everything from colliery lifting equipment to the Gossard Wonderbra. Sadly, since a £55m acquisition in 1993, it is also heavily involved in precision stainless steel strip, where overproduction has seen prices crash by 40 per cent or more this year. Orders for Carcio's Lee steel division sank by 10 per cent in the first half and the company warned vesterday that it faced a further shortfall of between 5 and 10 per cent in the second half. With management unable to see any light at the end of the tunnel ervice levels high.

Two years ago the shares were and the strengthening pound set to hammer European sales, it was little wonder the shares slumped 48.5p to 202.5p.

> wires used to comb fibre in textile mills, has filled in gaps in its coverage with acquisitions in the US and Germany over the past year. Much of the 29 per cent jump in half-year operating profits to £1.74m was due to a £300,000 contribution from Ashworth Card Clothing of the US, acquired in October 1995. The loss-making Peter Wolters of Germany, picked up in March, should start to chip in next year, and the Far East, where the textile industry is increasingly moving, is growing in importance.

The outlook in wires is also looking better, despite a 10 per cent fall to £2.16m. Rationalisation should produce benefits next year. Meanwhile, the automotive to packaging-related general en-gineering division is proving the star of the group, lifting profits 40 per cent to £2.8m on sharply higher margins. Full-year profits of around £14m would put the shares on a forward p/e

ratio of 13. Unexciting, given the con-

tinuing uncertainty at Lee.

Jill Treanor Banking Correspondent

Carclo sags as

The company warned in July that flat order books would hit the first half, so pre-tax profits down from £8.2m to £7.12m in the six months to September came as little surprise. Things have clearly got worse at Lee since, but there are signs that the rest of the group is responding to treatment.

Card clothing, which makes the

Alliance poised to win float approval

The Alliance & Leicester expects to be given the go-ahead for its conversion plans at a special general meeting today de-spite the threat of protests from an action group, furious at the terms of the £2.8bn flotation.

Protests from the action group will culminate in claims by Patrick Mountain, of Somerton, Somerset, that the decision by the society to treat all its members the same is illegal and an abuse of members' rights.

"It does appear that the mem-bers are entitled to share prorata in the levels of investments in surplus funds." Mr Mountain said vesterday. He cited the transfer document sent to the society's 2.4 million voting members to back up his claim.

Mr Mountain is angry that the society intends to give each voting member 250 shares worth at least £1,000, a move which discriminates against customers who have large sums invested or who have been with the society for many years.

intends to vote against the flotation plans.

But the fury of the action group, which has thousands of members, is unlikely to scupper the society's move to become bank as more than 1.5 million of its 2.4 million eligible members have cast their vote by post.

That volume of votes would indicate we've got a yes vote," a spokesman for the society said yesterday. He disputed Mr Mountain's

claim of illegality, saying there was no legal reason which the society should offer a pro-rata distribution of shares because it was giving away its reserves. The society will count the votes at the special general

meeting at the London Arena and expects to announce a "yes vote" by mid-afternoon. It needs 20 per cent of its investvoic cent of those to vote in favour. It needs a simple majority from its eligible mortgage borrowers.

A retired businessman and a draft Building Society Bill could former agent of the society, he throw a spanner in the works, "There is a possibility, de-

pending on when the bill is published, that it may cause a delay." the spokesman said. The bill is expected to published soon and Angela Knight, the Treasury minister, is adamant that building societies which become banks should lose their protection against takeovers if they bid for other

financial institutions. This has angered Alliance & Leicester, which has made no secret of its ambition for acquisitions once its becomes a bank. It argues that Mrs Knight is taking the bill further than was originally intended.

The society also argues that it may have to rewrite its lengthy transfer document, which forms the basis of today's vote, if the law is changed.

Alliance & Leicester is the ing members to vote and 75 per first of the converting societies to hold a special general meeting to approve its plans. Halifax. Woolwich and Northern However, the uncertainty sur- Rock are holding their meetings rounding the publication of the in the new year.

Branson backs off from Air Liberte bid

Virgin Express, the regional airline owned by Richard Branson, has decided against making a bid for the troubled Air Liberte. The decision clears the way for British Airways to buy the ailing French carrier.

We do not have the kind of willingness to lose as much money as I think whoever buys this company will lose. We just decided to back off and see what other opportunities would arise from time to time in France, said Jonathan Ornstein, chief

executive of Virgin Express. BA, in partnership with Banque Rivaud of France, has been the leading contender in the race to acquire Air Liberte since announcing in October it planned to give Air Liberte a FFr630m (£73m) capital injection.

Mr Ornstein had said earlier "There are other opportunities purchase."

we are looking at in France," he

Air Liberte, founded in 1988. lost FFr650m in the first nine months of 1996 due to a fare war and poor passenger num-bers at the airline in the run-up to full liberalisation of French airspace

BAs offer has to be approved by the creditors of Air Liberte, which has gone into administration.

Mr Ornstein, who believed BA would remain the only bidder, said Air Liberte had a negative operating margin of almost 40 per cent, making any investment "tough". He added: "In the airline

business if you have an operating margin of 8 per cent you're and Rivaud 30 per cent. basically under water. I don't know who else could afford to he planned to top the bid by BA. buy them. It's an expensive

He said he was not criticising BA's purchase of Air Liberte, as they had a very long-term strategic view. "It's just a question of what is the long-term view and where do you want to be 10 years from now," he said.

"These guys have a tremendous dominant position at Heathrow that literally allows them to print money. That can allow you to basically go to places like this and absorb huge losses while you sort of run the other guy dry."

The BA joint plan with Rivaud aims to get Air Liberte back to break-even in 1999. The plan will safeguard 1,250 out of 1,400 jobs at the carrier. BA would get a 70 per cent stake

Both companies are also paying the costs of running Air Liberte during administration, estimated at FFr150m.

In Brief

12 7 185

 The Channel Tunnel managed to increase passenger traffic last month, despite the fire, but the accident has hit lorry numbers. Eurotunnel, the operator, said Le Shuttle carried 142,047 cars in November, up from 129,286 a year earlier, while passengers travelling on the Eurostar rose from 283,180 to 295,161. But lorries carried on Le Shuttle freight service slid from 48,263 to 33,182 in November. The company said traffic levels had been affected by the fire, which took place on 18 November, but added that the figures "demonstrate the strong development of Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle services during the last 12 months."

• The Department of Trade and Industry invited comment by 16 December on a potential referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission of the proposed acquisition of Porterbrook Leasing by Stagecoach. The DTI said it will soon make a final decision on whether to refer the acquisition to the commission.

 Swiss Reinsurance is buying Istituto Nazionale delle Assicurazioni's reinsurance subsidiary for around SFr500m (£230m) in a move to expand its business in Italy. Swiss Re, the world's secondlargest reinsurer, said it will acquire Unione Italiana di Riassi-curazione in two stages, buying a 49 per cent stake at the beginning of 1997 and the remainder at the end of the year. "By establishing a significant local presence in Italy, Swiss Re expects to expand materially its reinsurance business in the Italian market," the company said. Swiss Re concluded a \$2.7bn purchase of Mercantile & General from Prudential last week.

• Eidos has exchanged contracts for the sale of its Silicon Dreams game development business for a minimum £500,000 to a company to be called Silicon Dreams Studios, controlled by Geoff Brown. Mr Brown is currently an Eidos executive director but will become a non-executive director on completion.

 Homestake Mining launched a \$2,3bn (£1.4bn) agreed takeover bid for Santa Fe Pacific Gold. The merged company will have the largest reserves among North American gold companies, and ranking second in annual output. The move follows an unsolicited \$2hn bid on Friday for Santa Fe by Newmont Mining.

· Premier Oil said its offer for Discovery Petroleum, an Australian oil group, has been made wholly unconditional. The bid has been extended until 23 December.

 National Parking Corporation, the National Car Parks to Green Flag breakdown services group, said the improving economic climate was helping to improve profits, despite a fall from £21m to £20.8m in the latest half year. New technology investment at NCP was substantially completed and "a fairly ambitious cost-saving programme" was now under way, the company said, with Green Flag. formerly National Breakdown, expected to undergo similar treatment next year. The interim dividend rises a quarter to 2.5p.

 Mulberry, the up-market leather goods retailer, is looking forward to a "satisfactory" year, despite deepening losses. In its first set of results since it floated on the Alternative Investment Market in May, the group announced that its pre-tax deficit had widened from £82,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 to £475,000 in the six months to September 182,000 to £475,000 to £475,0 ber. A maiden dividend of 0.75p is being paid.

	Compa	ny Resu	ts	
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend
Any proves and	128m (104m)	10 Bm (8.35m)	31 44p (27.11p)	11p (-)
API Graup (F)	55 5m (48.1m)	3 37m (1.75m)	2.4p (1.71p)	1p (0.925p)
CRT Group (I)	6.91m (6.36m)	3 06m (2.17m)	5 45p (3.93p)	140 (11754
Dayer Estates (F)	14.3m (12 6m)	2 52m (3.08m)	6.65p (7.53p)	2.20 (2.159)
Electronic Data Proc (F)	139m (138m)	5.1m (6.8m)	4p (2 4p)	1.47 (-)
Firth Abustin (F)	80.6m (87 Bm)	2,92m (5.43m)	5.85p (9.94p)	6.2p (5.81p)
Hall & Senith (F)	75.6m (60.9m)	3.75m (2.93m)	11.68p (9.75b)	5.2p (4.2p)
ideal Hartware (I)	141m (187m)	-0.27m (-0.12m)	-1.54p (-0.73p)	(-)
haver Workings (1)	119m (76 4m)	4.41m (0.51m)	5 5p (1.2p)	1.5p (nii)
barvis (NG)	13.6m (72 4m)	-0.48m (-0.08m)	-1.5p (-0.3p)	0.75p (nB)
Natherry Group (I)	57 20 (37 8m)	3 8m (2.53m)	5p (3.3p)	-(1)
Read Executive (US)	10 Ju (329m)	7.23m (2.18m)	-15.92p (1 55p)	- (·)
Michards Group (1)		0.63m (0.03m)	4,80 (0.3p)	3.25p (2.6p)
Silvers (F)	18.9m (18.7m)	Cool (Cara)		

Biotech shares get boost as trials progress

Magnus Grimond

Celltech and Chiroscience, two of the UK's leading biotechnology groups, saw their shares ump yesterday after plans for ate-stage clinical trials brought them closer to launching drugs

in 1998. Celltech saw its shares rise 12.5p to 500p on news of en-couraging trial results for its treatment for blood and bone marrow cancer, which could provide an alternative to chemotherapy. The company, which is today expected to report its first-ever annual profits, said its partner, American Home Products, would move to the final stage of testing required be-fore the drug can receive official

approval, expected in late 1998. Chiroscience announced that t had won approval from the US Food and Drug Adminis-tration to start clinical trials on its Levobupivicaine anaesthetic, which could give it clearance to market the drug from the middle of 1998 if all goes well. A programme of 15 phase III trials in the US als in the US and Europe has already begun. Chiroscience shares rose 11p to 329p.

ered 36 US sufferers of acute myeloid leukaemia who had failed to respond to existing treatments. Two were said to have shown a complete response to the treatment, with all leukaemia cells eliminated from the blood and bone marrow and blood cell counts restored to normal. Three others responded partially. The main side-effects were the onset of fever and chills and two patients suffered

from high blood pressure. Peter Feliner, chief executive said he was very gratified by the results. "We are very surprised we saw such a major response from these patients... Our feeling is if we can get at patients who are not at death's door, ie people who have had a first round of treatment and relapsed, we have a much higher chance of effecting

long-term remission." Phase II/III studies will now start early next year in 10 centres in North America involving 50 patients. Celltech has upped its initial estimate of peak revenues of \$100 to \$150m to over \$200m after the extension of the drug's use to longer-term chronic myeloid leukaemia, as well as the acute form of the dis-The latest Celltech tests cov-

Border TV set to bid for Sunderland Radio

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

Border Television, the tiny ITV company for the English-Scottish border regions, yesterday revealed it was in talks to buy Sunderland Radio, the

Tyne Tees local radio station. The talks, which are believed to be at an advanced stage, could see Border take 100 per cent of Sunderland City, which broadasts a mix of popular mu-sic from the 1960s, 70s and 80s, as well as local news and community information. Border already operates Cen-

tury Radio, the regional radio

franchise for the North-east of

England, which covers the same broadcast area as Sunderland

City. As a consequence, the Ra-

6,2

dio Authority would review the transaction under its publicinterest powers.

Sunderland is owned by Minster Radio, one of country's smaller radio groups, which also controls the York-based Minster FM service. GWR, one of the UK's leading commercial radio companies, has a 27 per cent holding in Minster Radio. Radio Investments, another small commercial radio group,

owns a 28 per cent stake. The Radio Authority, the sector watchdog, said yesterday a takeover of the station would be acceptable only if the pubhe interest test was met and provided the new owners respected the "promise of performance" agreed when the eight-year licence was awarded in 1995.



Why wise men will be thinking about gold investments now

old, frankincense and myrrh: of the wise men's three gifts only gold has retained, through two millennia, its place in our imagination. "Gold cards", "gold ser-vice", "gold accounts" - banks and the rest of the commercial world still use the image to proclaim quality. But if the aura continues, for the last 15 years at least, gold has been a poor investment. Not only does it not pay interest, and through the 1980s real interest rates have, unlike in the 1970s, been positive. The long-term trend of inflation seems to be down and one of the prime reasons for people holding gold has been as a protection against de-

basement of the currency. The longer-term trends in the gold price are set out in the graphs: on the left what has been happening to the actual price since 1970, and on the right the real price since 1863, with the dollar price deflated by the US consumer price index, and 1863 price taken as base 100. The message is pretty clear. In money terms there was the re-rating of gold during the 1970s, corresponding with the decade of inflation, but since then, even in money terms, the

gold price has fallen steadily. In real terms the drop is sharper, as shown in the other graph. The average real price for gold, against that 1863 base, is just over 60, pretty much the same as the present price of around \$360 an ounce. In other words, gold now is not only cheaper than it was for the last 40 years of the 19th century; it is also back to the average

price of the last 130 years. When you try to work out real values for something as volatile as gold, you have to try to establish what constitutes normality. Clearly the experi-ence of the last 30 years, the great inflationary boom, is very abnormal, Inflations like that only occur every three of four hundred years: the only previ-

prices rose roughly 10-fold, as they did between 1960 and 1990. All other inflations have seem prices perhaps double and then that rise be largely reversed. If normality is stable prices, and there is a reasonable expectation that this will contime, what hope is there for another boom in the price of gold?

It is very hard to see another boom like that one shown in the spike on the right hand graph. In the view of the editors of The International Bank Credit Analyst, from whom that graph is taken, gold will indeed continue to underperform other assets and its real price will erode. They conclude that despite the recent fall in prices. it is not a good time to get back into gold. The fact that the real price is back close to its US 1863-1996 average does not mean that it won't continue on downwards, just as it did between 1863 and 1920, and be-

tween 1941 and 1971. That is probably right - but only probably. Remember that investment in gold is an insur-ance policy. If currencies or other financial assets, for whatever reason, become untrustworthy, gold will retain at least some of its value. It may some primitive, but a lot of people in the world do believe (with some justification) that if they have a few gold bars under their bed at least they won't starve.



Hamish McRae

Gold is now not only cheaper than it was for the last 40 years of the 19th century; it is back to the average

130 years Looking ahead there are, as always, two views. One, and to judge by the gold market's performance in recent months, this is the dominant one, is to say that the period of stability into which we are moving renders gold unnecessary. The possibility some this will be sold.

The price of gold - two measures

Real price of gold Rebased to 1863=100. Deflated by US consumer prices

price of the last

offer solid returns in the shape of positive real interest rates. Other financial assets, in particular equities, offer an op-portunity to share in the growing wealth of the world. In-flation, already beaten in the developed world, will soon be on the retreat in the developing countries and in the former communist countries too.

Further support for this view

comes from a look at the physical market. For nearly a decade gold production has failed to keep up with rising demand. Between 1986 and 1995 demand rose by 49 per cent, driven principally by rising wealth in China and India. But while these sources of de-mand seem likely to continue to grow, so too may production. The former Soviet Union is likely to boost supply, and traditional producers, in particular South Africa could also increase supply. Production there has actually fallen by about 20 per cent over the last three years, and the government is seeking ways of encouraging a revival. New capacity tends to have low production costs, so investment in price continues to fall. Finally, there is the overhang of central bank gold, including gold held in the coffers of the International Monetary Fund, and the

native argument, which runs like this. True, the long-term trend of gold may be flat, but it is not necessarily downwards. On a long historical view the present price is not too bad. There are a number of possible factors which in the coming years might make gold more attractive, irrespective of what happens to inflation.

For a start we should not be so confident about the security of national currencies. One of the most important world currencies, the German mark, may disappear in the next five years. The yen is liable to become weak as Japan's ageing population runs down external assets to help pay for health care. Even the dollar carries risks, for in a decade the US has moved from being the world's largest net creditor nation to the world's largest debtor.
Add in the fact that the gov-

ernments of all developed countries (with the possible exception of the UK) have accumulated large, unfunded pension liabilities, as well as significant public sector debt, and the underpinning of the main currencies may not be so secure. As for other assets, in particular equities, values are quite high at the moment. At some ge in the next few years there will be a readjustment, maybe a severe one, and as doubts and fears rise expect some of the clever money to be shifted to gold. Not very much needs to be shifted to have a sharp impact on the price. And as noted above, in much of the fastest-

growing countries, gold has a continuing allure. Which view is right? My own suspicion is that the balance of probability is that the first, the bear case, will be the dominant one for the next decade or more. But there is a strong minority possibility that as some stage in the next 10 years there will be some upheaval, some discontinuity, in the world economy which we cannot predict. And then, for a while a least, gold will again be king.

A man catches a cold and the rumours spread

David Webster, chairman-elect of Safeway, is the subject of all manner of wild rumours at the moment. One story circulating last week was that Mr Webster had missed the group's recent results prese tations because his house had been burgled and that he and his wife had been tied up for several hours before the boys

Other versions of the story went further, with some saying that not only had Mr Webster been burgled but kidnapped too, hence the no-

in blue came to the rescue.

show. Safeway was keen to set the record straight yesterday, saying there was nothing sinister behind Mr Webster's absence. "I don't know where all these things are coming from. He had a bad cold."

Also the subject of wild ru-mours is Jonathan Benda, young gun at Brunswick, the city PR firm. The PR world was agog with the initial story that he was leaving to become a clown ("No change there then", said one Brunswick

Later reports suggested he was leaving to become a magician (the Great Benda is a member of the magic circle). This seemed more likely as the transition from conjur ing up stories to pulling small furry animals out of hats would appear a simple one.

Sadly, neither are true, though one thing seems clear: he is leaving. Mr Benda re-mained tight-lipped on the subject yesterday though he did threaten to saw me in half at one point. Sources close to the Great Malfonso say he is quitting "to set up a business. More news as it comes in.

Tom Hunter, managing director of Sports Division, got a shops assistant's view of Christmas trading at the weekend when he put in a shift at the sports retailer's Oxford Street store.

Mr Hunter, whose 240strong chain acquired Olympus Sports from Sears earlier this year, reported for duty at PEOPLE & BUSINESS



the shop with his entire board on Saturday. Finance director Brian

McClusky manned the till (he was rather slow and hamfisted, by all accounts). Mr Hunter undertook a range of tasks including selling training shoes to spotty youths and cleaning up in the canteen. "It was hard work but you learn much more doing that than during a whole series of meetings," Mr Hunter said. "It's not a publicity stunt, we've been doing it since we

started 12 years ago." He said Saturday's venture had proved so successful that the directors would serve in a shop at least three times a year. Perhaps if Liam Strong had tried this then Sears would have not got in such a mess with Olympus in the first place.

London's second oldest nightclub is looking for new shareholders to fund a refurbishment programme that will turn it into an all-singing, all danc-

ing cabaret club. The Rheingold club, located in a narrow street off Oxford Street, was founded in 1959 and new chairman Christopher Ager claims only Ronnie Scott's is older. Mr Ager, an enthusiastic

brought in by the two original German owners to manage the club and arrange a sale. He is hoping to raise £350,000 for the club, which recorded a loss last year after the previous franchisee brought in transvestite cabaret acts in an unsuccess

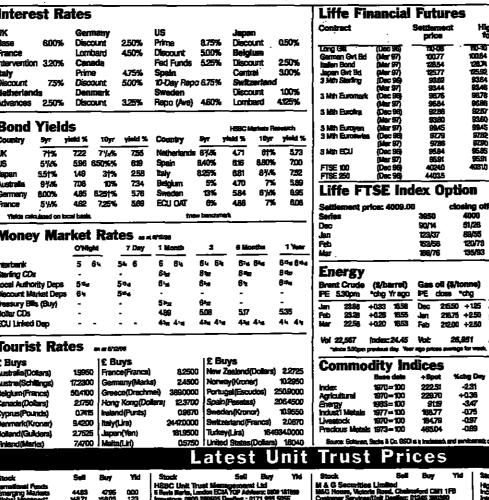
_Nis inju

ful attempt to boost trade. Cross-dressing and lederhosen will apparently not form part of the fund-raising prospectus. "We don't want to have thigh slapping and bratwurst," Mr Ager says. He already has several local busings and bratwars and line to invest but nessmen willing to invest but is hoping to generate interest from business angels who might ordinarily back West

Perween Warsi, founder of Derby-based ethnic food company S&A Foods has been named Woman Entrepreneur of the World at a presentation in London.

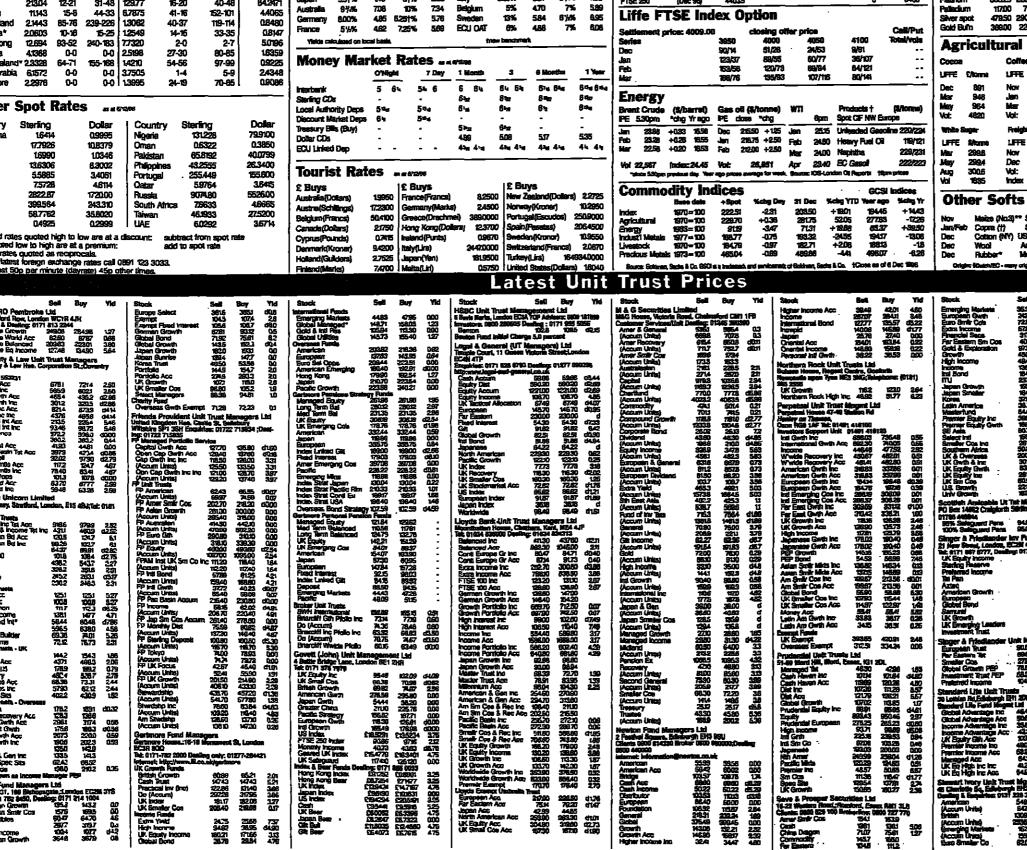
Ms Warsi, who was runnerup in the Veuve Clicquot businesswoman of the year award two years ago, started S&A in her kitchen in 1987. It now achieves annual sales of more than £30m supplying ethic ready made dips and sauces to supermarket groups including Asda and Safeway.

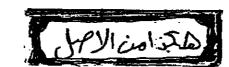
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the ambulance and the qualifi-

cations of the crew as required

by the Jockey Club. These are the subject of further investi-

gation which may be referred to

Southwell's safety net subse-

the Disciplinary Committee."

quently caused one of the more

down, I just couldn't get off in

time," A veteran of four Cham-

pion Hurdles, Mole Board be-

came the oldest horse ever to

take part in the race when he

finished eighth to Alderbrook at

the age of 13 in 1995.

THE INDEPENDENT - TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 1996

sport

Davis injury 'virtually untreatable' Mr Sox "seemed medic ambulance staffed by bizarre passages in the Jockey Chub's year, when Dr Michael who is National who is National advis-

Richard Davis, the National Hunt jockey, who died in a fall at Southwell in July, would probably not have been saved even if the racecourse's much criticised safety procedures had been up to scratch, a coroner was told yesterday.

Davis, 26, was killed by devastating injuries sustained when Mr Sox struck the first fence and capsized. An inquest in Mansfield yesterday heard that the jockey's liver was torn and there was considerable damage to his vena cava, one of two large veins that convey blood to the heart. He lost eight pints of blood before suffering heart fail-

It was considered at the time that a 39-minute delay in transferring Davis between ambulances may have contributed to his death, but this theory was all but extinguished yesterday by about the race but none more John Doran, a consultant sur- so than the rest of us." Harvey

geon at the Queens Medical added that Mr Sox "seemed medic ambulance staffed by Centre in Nottingham. He said dumbstruck" as he approached that even if Davis had been given the initial obstacle. "In that sitely the initial obstacle." In that sitely the initial obstacle. en immediate treatment it would have been difficult to save him. "It is an injury that is vir-tually untreatable," he said. Dr can do." Alan Stevens, a consultant pathologist, added: "It was a severe compression injury and I believe the most likely way for it to happen was by heavy pressure on the abdomen."

Davis had visited the stables of Laura Shally, Mr Sox's trainer, in the build-up to the race.
"Richard had gone up to Miss Shally's but there wasn't anywhere to school the horse over fences, so he ended up giving the horse a gallop instead Luke Harvey, who also rode in the Southwell race, told the court.

Just before the novices' handicap chase the two men had spo-ken. "We were rather jokingly discussing our chances," Harvey said. "He felt an anticipation

uation you are just a passenger, he said, "If they don't help themselves there's not much you

The death of Davis - the seventh jockey killed in action in Britain during the past 15 years - initiated an inquiry into safety arrangements at Southwell. A Jockey Club report released vesterday expressed concerns about medical facilities at the course. In particular, there was criticism of the ambulance cover. The Jockey Club's instruction 11 states there should be at least one "front line para-

Mole Board dies on gallops The 14-year-old hurdler Mole said: "I knew he was going

Board collapsed and died yesterday. His trainer, Jim Old, was on board Mole Board, supervising his string on the gallops, when the veteran crumpled, trapping him beneath the geld-ing. Old, who was just bruised,

Turner, its chief medical advispartment-trained and in active er, first offered his resignation service as a paramedic". On 19 and then remained in his post July, Southwell racecourse was after his employers agreed to his covered by a private ambuplea for a formal inspection of lance service, Ambulink, which they were subsequently advised the course's medical services. Yesterday's announcement not to re-employ. The report added that "serious concern further refuted post-accident

suggestions that Mr Sox was unhas focussed on the quality of fit to run in the race. There had been an accusation that the fivevear-old had run with a fractured pelvis, but the report added that "the veterinary surgeon who attended the horse earlier in the summer has confirmed that his examinations showed no evidence of any pelvic fracture", and that "neither the Jockey Club veterinary officer nor the racecourse veterinary surgeon on duty at Southwell noticed any obvious sign of lameness in the paddock

or on the way to the start".



the Southwell workforce as the condition of the track was found to have made no contribution to Davis's death.

In his summing up Dr Nigel Chapman, the Nottinghamshire coroner, said: "There has been problems about the type of ambulance and medical services provided but both the pathologist and the surgeon said that even if the surgeon had The inquiry also exonerated Laura Shally, whose yard met been there at the time the outcome would have been the the requirements of a permit same." The jury returned a trainer, and at least one part of verdict of accidental death.

Jukes banned after blunder

Amateur rider Jamie Jukes was banned for a total of 12 days yesterday taking the wrong course on Bironi, an odds-on favourite at Ludlow. But the horse's trainer, Captain Tim Forster, fumed: "I'd take his licence away for six months - he's an experienced man who has ridden round here hundreds of times."

Bironi runs in the colours of Mrs Michael Wiggin, wife of the Ludlow chairman. Wiggin fumed: "You get the leading amateur to ride the horse and then he does that."

Jukes and his mount had jumped just one fence of the three-mile race before the jockey steered his mount away from the water jump in front of the grandstand and took the hurdle course, astonishing racegoers.

Realising his error, Jukes turned round and set off in pursuit of his four rivals. After much hard work the pair had

joined the tail of the field, 10 lengths off the leader. But they were held in third place when the seven-year-old hit the last fence and fell. A shaken Jukes said: "I didn't

see the water jump and if you look at the film I was never going to jump it. Captain Forster rightly went absolutely berserk." But Milton Bradley, trainer of the 16-1 winner Opal's Tenspot. remarked: "I'm glad I got a jockcy with brains!

Jukes was banned for 10 days for taking the wrong course plus two days for using his whip in the foreband position down the gelding's neck on the run to the second last.
The rider added: "I would

like to convey my sincerest apologies to everyone concerned," he said. "I walked the course beforehand and have ridden round here so many times. I can't tell you,"

HUNTINGDON

12.30 Eurolink The Lad (nb) 2.30 Albemine 1.00 Mount Serrath 3.00 At The Grove

3.30 Lovely Rascal 200 Brazil Or Bust GOING: Chases - Good (Good to Soft in places); Hurdles - Good to Soft (Soft in places)

Rigis-hand, level course, Run-in 2007ds.

Rigis-hand, level course, Run-in 2007ds.

Course is at junction of A1 and A804. Huntingdon station (service from London, King's Cross) a mide away. ADMISSION: Members \$12; Paddock \$8 (Students \$4); Course \$4. CAR PARK: Picnic area \$1; remainder free.

EKADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: K Belley - 21 winners from 55 runners at a ratio of 38.2% giving a return to a 31 level stake of +534.58; J Gifford - 15 winners, 56 runners, 22.1%, +50.32; D Nicholson - 12 winners, 45 runners, 26.7%, +527.02; F Marphy - 13 winners, 25 runners, 25.6%, -57.25; T Forster - 11 winners, 51 runners, 21.6%, -50.65; N Henderson - 6 winners, 36.7%, rouners, 35.6%, +58.33; G Habbard - 9 winners, 49 runners, 18.4%, +53.36.

LEADING JOCKETS: A Magnire - 20 winners, 100 rides, 20%, -58.37; P Hide - 16 winners, 53 rides, 30.2%, +527.17; N WHISTRON - 13 winners, 53 rides, 22.5%, -52.20; E Dantwoody - 13 winners, 87 rides, 14.9%, -531.33; D Bridgwater - 12 winners, 72 rides, 10.7%, +57.79; W Misraton - 10 winners, 48 rides, 20.9%, +521.38.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Note.

BLINKEERD PIEST TIME: None. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG DISTANCE EUNNERS: Stideofall (1.00), Jymjun Johnny (2.00), Bast Houston (3.00) & Lovely Rascal (3.30) sent 239 miles by J.J.O'Nell from Skelton Wood Rad, Combris.

[1230	7 FLAT JOCKEYS CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 addie 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,185
1	12013/-0	ARABIAN 90LD (IRE) (31) (D) (A C W Price) R Judges 8 11.6
2	2325/3-4	SURREY DANCER (17) (D) (Laurel (Leboure) Library) Mas M. Royeley 8 11 8
		ADDED DIMENSION (IRE) (24) (N A Dunger) P Winksorth 5 11 0
4	61322/2-	EUROLPHK THE UAD (630) (D) 64s Lynch Si Vellams) C Burchell 9 11 C Prior (T)
		The second secon

V Smith

- 9 declared
9277892: 7-4 Surrey Dencer, 9-4 Enrollet The Let, 9-2 Fourtaines, 7-1 Enlargy, 8-1 Arabine Bold,
16-1 Quillectt, 26-1 Added Dimension. 33-1 arbane 16-1 Quillword, 26-1 Added Dissension, 33-1 others 1995: Berney's Gift 7 11 1 M Beannan 8-1 (O Brennan) 12 can

FORM GUIDE SURRIEY DANCER may not be the force he was before he injured himself finishing third to

Atours at Kempton in October 1995, but he has shown that he still repairs quite a bit of ability, finishing an encouraging fifth on the Flat at Foliastone lest month. He could manserus a og drop in cass and ne si worm one more crisco. Euromia no usa asio possesses useful form over hundles, having sinshed ascond to Chief-Minister in the Swinton Handlesp Hurdle at Haydock in May 1995. Twice second to Distant Echo, at Stratford and Ultimater, the following month, he has not run since, so is probably best watched today. Earlogify a best, fundies form does not come anywhere dose to Suriery Discords and Europinik The Lad's and he ladis a recent run, having been absent since finishing second in a Southwell claimer on the Flat in June. Fortamenya has not run since finishing third so Barrier's Gift in this race a the flat in June. Fortamenya has not run since finishing supermick on his return at Wind-sor.

	L00	WHAT A BUCK MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m Penaity Value £2,915
1	526-32F	AMERIER SPARK (IRE) (7) (RE) (RE Borloworth) D Gardello ? 11.0
2	F	BIG ARCHEE (II) (Claf Bessor) Mrs A Bowby 6 11 0
3		BOLSHIE BARON (M H Weston) M Weston 7 11 0

	BOLSHEE BARON ON 11 Weston) M Weston 7 11 D	
440-4	FELLOC CIRE (27) (Mrs. J Edwards-Heathcoat) T George 7 11 (J	نعبار ۲
00000-5	MASTER HOPE (RE) (24) (The Decky Partnership) D Michalson 7 11 0	فهط
465444	QUIKALL CROSSETT (1.4) (Mrs Karen Woodhead) E Carre 21: 11: 0	
F42-252	\$UEAR HEL (RES) (149 (Mas Timostry Pillangton) J Gilloot 6 11, 0	
05005-		
	THE MARMALADE CAT (P Browes) Mrs D Home 7 12 0	
42	FOREST MAISK (RES) (15) (REF) (The Boustomakers) P Hobbs 5 10 13	
5P/642-5	PEARL EPEE (IA) (Mrs A'A Shutes) D Nicholson 7 10 9R	le ll m
F24340	SANDAL: (USA) (22) (\$ (Riching)) Picketing 7 10 9	بنادها
	654256- 00030-5 8/2/F-2 465444 25/P-P 3- F42-252 05005- 42	#40.4 PELDO (IDE) (27) (Ma) Edwards-Heathcate) Temps 7.11 G. #54256 P.U.L. SHILLING (USA) (321) (S C Fam) D Williams 7.11 O

BETTING: 3-1 Mount Serroth, 7-2 Segar HBI, 5-1 Amber Spork, 8-1 Stateoffell, 14-1 Bo Pearl Epes, 16-1 others 1995: Master Orchestra 6 11 0 J F Tobey 6-4 (Miss H Wright) 17 ran

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FORM GUIDE

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FORM SUN well both starts in this country, finishing fourth to Mr Mackham in a Sandown bumper and then numer-up to impressive chreated Statement at Follestoner a novice funde. Philip Hobbs has bedded not to hang about racing the Strong Gale five-year-old over hundles and the decision can pay off with a victory on his debut over regulation ferroes. Amber Spank just failed to get the better of Mammy's Croice (successful at Follestone versetrally in a Plumpton makern chase having finished an enrounaging third to Punters Overhead on his chasing debut at Newton Abbot itst month. An early failer at the Devon course less time when favourite for a handicap chase, he has every chance in this grade. So does lightly-raced Mount Senzatib, seven lengths sooned to Don Du Cadran on his neeppearance at Hersford. He fell on his final two starts last season, so it was sood to see him act nound, and he had not neetly well in his only other. ond to Don Du Cadran on his respipearance at Herstord. He fell on his final two starts last, season, so it was good to see him get round, and he had nun neally well in his only offer rate last term, finishing second to Samlee (stablemate to my selection) at Teurton. Silde-offall is interesting. He was a useful pomier in Iroland but an only once last season, fin-ishing a well-beaten third of four to Paraon's Boy at Westerby. He is better than he showed there. Sugar Hitt has shown up well in his timee runs this season, most receiving when sec-ond to Solo Gent over course and distance. When any pointer billing Anothe was beyied at long odds prior to falling at the first at Towester on Saturdey. Selection: FOREST MUSK

130 FRIENDS OF ISRT NOVICE HUR 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3	OLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added
ZIII LLUYUS PERBITY VARUE ZA	4000
1 6-SFF5 AL HELAL (12) (Mass J L. Wasson) J January 4:	10 12 W Mession V
A CLASS COMMENT AND AS	

ww	ndig a cety fet it has a no ach a inchest - m 14
03-	CADES BAY (434) (R D Russel) N Twiston-Davies 5 to 12
D-	CLINTON (IRS) (244) (E N Thomas) X Balley 5 10 12
0-6	DASHAND (12) (Such Hall Five Partnership) D Nicholson 5 10 12
455/4	LATEST THYNE (IRE) (402) (Simon Sainsbury) Capt T Forster 6 10 12
FOP-	LOCH GARBIAN (652) (215) DAs R D Caircl F Murphy 6 10 12_Mage Elizabeth Doyle (7)
	MOONUX (RRE) (Shelkti Mohammad) B Hills 5 (0 12
	MIGHT DANCE (Pacecouse Medical Offices Association) X Margan 4 10 12 A 5 Smith
632-08	PENROSE LAD (NZ) (18) (BF) (Mrs C N Weatharby) D Nicholson 6 10 1244 R Thomasa (5)
	SHARPICAL (J.A.B. Station) H Henderson 4 10 12
365-5	SYMPHOMY'S SON (IRE) (27) (Als J Mould) D Nicholson 5 1D 12
2-P	THUK BACK (RRS) (10) (V McCalle) Mea H Kniget 4 10 12
4	THE STAGER (RE) (17) (Julian Duncard) Jurians 4 10 12
3-	TOTAL JOY (RIE) (415) (P M Wassen) C Mann 5 10 12
P000-P	WOODLANDS LAD TOO (40) (Woodlands Worcestershire) P Princhard 4 10 12 R Bellamy
	DESCRIPTION TO THE PARTY OF THE

BETTING: 8-4 Moneau, 7-1 Penrose Lad, 8-1 Sharpical, 10-1 Lejest Thyre, Symphony's Son, Hight Dance, The Stages, 12-1 offers 1995: Igges 5 11 0 P Hide 14-1 (J T Callord) 19 mm

1995: Iggns 5 11 0 P kids 14-1 (I T Gilord) 19 am

NOONAX, winner of the 1994 St Leger and numer-up in Group Ones at Longchamp on his intest Plat runs, has the Champion Hurdie as his objective and will need to make a winning debut here of he is to fulfit that ambition. This is a race best watched, though, as tail-awishing Moones has proved temperamental on the Plat. Moorax will get a good test on this funding debut, as there are some other useful (atthough not in the same class) recruits from Hat. Sharpheal proved a useful handicapper on the Plat for Sir Mark Prescott, winning at Ascor, and Lecosare, and joined Nidry Henderson for 25,000grs at the Newmarket Au
"tition Sales" Hartistro well over fundies. Night Danice won'the valuable seven-furforg handloop at the Ascor Festival in 1995 when with Geoff Lewis. He showed lattle lest season but
would have every chance it taiding to hundles. Talk Back best Chicodari e short head at Cheltenham on his hunding debut last season, only to use the rec's in the stawards' from. He was not seen out again utiti Warwolkten days ago when pulled up in lonio's race treport-edy choised) and that run should have put a bit of an edge on him. The Stages gave only immed enouragement on his hunding bow when fourth to Resist The Force at Assoc, white Bab's Play has become despiporating.

[2.00	SIR PETER CROSSMAN ISRT NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,855
1	OTHO PE	.Millian Unitary (RE) (25) (Pales Recycling Services) / / O'Nell 7 11 10
3	345014	ANNERS VALLEY RISA) (325) (Barkshire Components) D Wilsons 5 11 7 A Thornton
		SERBOUS (380) (York and Dee Loussies) K Balley 5 11 7
5		ANOTHER VEHICURE (IRE) (I.A) (Robert Wheeler) F Murphy 6 11 2

6. 0712036- NOVER CENTRY (2214) (R.E. DRINGHAM OF CENTRY OF 540-024 TOTAL ASSET (32) (Bony Forces) A Forces 6 10 0... Armie Kelly 7 11 12 8 Datton 7-1 (J Wharton) 7 ren

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

SERIOUS, a useful Flat performer, showed that he stays the top over jumps when woming on his only outing over hardles at Utomater last year. Now with Nim Bailey, he is reported to have taken well to jumping fences at home and is not highly tried on this chasing debut. Breatl Or Bust made a winning start to his chasing career, beeting Singsby a neak, the self-cent, at Werwick last morth, but he felf-early on at Folkestons next time. He can pose a threat despite top weight. River Leven, successful first time out at Wincanton last search, managed a third to Aedean at Lingslet in a similar event to this last December and is on a good mark compared to hurdles. Total Aeset was unsurprisingly no match for Mulliger at Utomater on his chasing bow, but his fourth was still a creditable effort. Even from 11b out of the handicap, he has a chance. Jyunjam Johany disappointed at Ayr last time and makes limited spokel.

Selection: SERIOUS

2.30 NATIONAL HUNT JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 110yds Penaity Value £2,847

-		
5	ALBERTALE (USA) (LA) (CO) (Als. I Cecti Mis. I Cecti 7 12 0	T 160
	GLANGERON (RC) (374) (D) (Re. Norton) K Margen 5 12 0	
2	MARBUS (REE) (1A) (Mrs Anthony Andrews) J Colord 6 11 7	
	MOST EQUAL (213) (D) (Heery Kapalan) M Pros 6 11 5	
	STORM DUST (608) (D) OR J Suriey Tice) Mess H Kingst 7 11 5	
8	MENELANE (RE) (24) (CD) (BF) (R 5 Hold O Stervood 6 11 3	Cubana کے
0	EDEN DANCER (38) (D) (8F) (Ashley Gallerit) Mis M Reveley 4 11 ()	ی جما کـــــ
	JENNA PUDDLEDUCK (21) (D) (Peropal Reong) A Streeter 5 10 2	
	YOUNG AT HEART (IRIS) (1958) (Larkney Ostrich Farm Lad M Haynes 5 10 0_	D Skymo
	O destand	

FORM CLIDE

MOST EQUAL, who won three times lasts easton, at Wincareon, Leicester and Warwick, tooks best. Martin Pipe is sure to have him it for this return and he is just 2th higher than when beating Kino's Cross for his fast win. Ground conditions will suit him as well as any, although he would not want it any more testing. Menetave, who made a withing reappiths course in October, was well beaten behind Herrietta Howard on a return in not be discounted. Eden Dancer also can poorly last time, behind Fen Temer at Nelso, having set a strong pace. He needs a fast surface. Storm Disat is well handicapped at his best but has a long abence to wercome, as do Glemaneria and Young At Heart, Jennika Puddieduck seems to have enough weight, but the progressive Markas looks sure to run a big

rgmon					e mari eq	
	[3.00	CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty	CHASE Value £	(CLASS 2,968	E)
2	Ł	03240-3	AT THE GROVE (BIE) (19) (Major-Gen R L T Burges) K Balley	r 8 11 10	Y#	in the
2	5	15P14/0	COUNT BARACHOIS (USA) (10) (C) (Mrs E H Heath) Mrs E	Heath & 11 16)K6e	cje
	3		EAST HOUSTON (10) (Highgreen Partnership) J J Chief 7 1			
4	Ļ	334221-	JUDICIAL FIELD (IRE) (194) (Mrs E F, Newtoqual) N Yarkier ?	119	E iliyyban	d B
;	5	4758-15	PLAYING TRAVART (\$11) (BF) (David O Moon) D Gandolfo 8 1		BR	ΣĦ
ŧ	5	1P50-5P	VSAGSIO (ZZ) (Forly Forbes) A Forbes 8 10 3		Michael Bron	
1	7	5-UORBO	MONAUGRITY MAN (3,0) (Ms. Karen Woodheed) E Ceine 10	100	D J Karan	10
						_

- 7 operation — Administration — Adminis

FORM GUIDE.

AT THE GROVE, placed over fences in Ireland, made his debut for Kim Bailey at Wincanton In the race won by Highland Jack and ran well to be that, besten 12 lengths. He weakened over the last three tences as though needing the run and was not given a hard time. His jockey was not hard on him and improvement can be espected. Playing Thuast, who best Chickabiddy a length on his Exeter respossance, jumped poorly at Bangor next time when a well-besten fifth to General Pongo and is not an easy ride. Consistent Judicial Flield could be fancied if fit for this return. He wound up last season with a length success from Channel Pastime at Herstord, his thad win, and is just 20 higher. Count Barachols should at least be fitter efter his run behind Fine Harvest at Warwick, his first race since May 1995, but the others are difficult to fancy. Meaninghty Man is flattered by his third to Scottish Barnbi at Ludiou yesterday in a slowly-run race, East Houston has lost his way and Viag-

3.30 WEATHERSYS STARS OF TOMORROW INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m 110yds Penelty Value £1,385 ARFAR Cuis Fisine M Auriel K Rurie & 11 &

SETTING: 6-4 Lovely Record, 3-1 Strong Mint, 6-1 Cony Rick, 8-1 Restreamin, 10-1 Run For The Mill, 20-1 Fiddler's Lean, Bearle Browne, 25-1 others

STROMS MINT has shown promise on both starts, finishing fight to Durad at Wetnerby a fourth to Arderroch Prince at Ayr, and could well be ready to score now. Lovely Rescal the other who can be fancied on racecourse evidence, having been a close fifth to Mare at Haydock and then numer-up to Mestock Megide at Hereford, Pick of the newcomers not be Betweenuto, Copy Ride and Tract Main Carter.

Selection: STRONG MI

....S Cura

RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

Bookmakers' ante-post lists are developments – best prices are

racing's futures market. Read- in bold - in this sphere with The ers can catch up with the latest Independent's Tuesday service.

Welsh National Handicap Chase (3m 5f 100yds)					
Horse (Trainer/weight)	Corel	Withma Hill			
Belmont King (P Nicholls/10s15lb)	9-2	9-2			
The Grey Monk (G Remarks/10st12lb)	4-1	5-1			
General Wolfe (T Forster/10st1lb)	10-1	10-1			
Le Stregone (T Tate/11st2tb)	10-1	7-1			
Parsons Boy (G Richards 9st7lb)	10-1	유-1			
Sumy Bay (C Brooks/10s110b)	10-1	7-1			
St Mellion Februar (D Nicholson/10st)	12-1	10-1			
Billygoat Graff (D Nicholson/9st13lb)	_10-1	14.1			
Encore Us Peu (M Proe/10st7tb)	16-1	10-1			
Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Chopstow, Friday, 27 December)					

1997 Champion Hurdle (2m 110yds)								
Horse (Traineri	Coral	William Hill	Lactorokes	Tota				
Alderbrook (K Balley)	4-1	7-2	3-1	7.2				
Collier Bay (J Old)	6-1	8-1	7-1	6-1				
Large Action (O Sherwood)	7-1	8-1	5-1	8-1				
Space Tracker (Mrs.) Hamm@on)	14-1	14-1	10-1	14-1				
Dato Ster (M Jefferson)	16-1	14-1	14-1	16-1				
Escertafigue (D Nicholson)	16-1	14-1	14-1	14-1				
Castle Sweep (D Nicholson)	20-1	14-1	14-1	16-1				
Moonax (B Hals)	20-1	16-1_	16-1	14-1				
Relikael (D Nucholson)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1				
Urubande (A O'Brien)	16-1	20-1	16-1	16-1				
Zubadi (D Nicholson)	14-1	25-1	33-1	20-1				
Each-way a quarter the colds, plan	ces 1, 2, 3	i (Cheltenham,	Tuesday, 11 (vfarch)				

1997 Triumph Hurdle (2m 1f)								
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes.	Tote				
Bellator (G B Balding)	8-1 20-1	8-1 20-1	8-1 20-1	8-1 25-1				
White See (M Pipe)								
Shooting Light (P G Murphy)	25-1	25-1	20-1	33-1				
Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Thursday, 13 March)								

1997 Cheltenham G	old Cup	Chase (3	3m 2f 11	Oyds)
House (insiner)	Cored	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tota
Imperial Call (F Sutherland)	7-2	7-2	3.1	3-1
One Man (G Richards)	8-1	8-1	7-1	8-1
Rough Quest (T Casey)	10-1	12-1	10-1	12-1
Coorne Hilb (W Denns)	14-1	14-1	12-1	14-1-
Dorans Pride (M Houngard	20-1	14-1	16-1	14-1
Master Oats (K Balley)	16-1	20-1	doubtful	16 <u>-1</u>
Nehthen Lad (Mrs.) Primari)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
The Grey Monk (G Richards)	20-1	20-1	doubtful	14-1
Addington Boy (G Richards)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Bacjo (D Nicholson)	25-1	20-1	20-1	14-1
Mr Molligan (Noel T Chance)	25-1	20-1	25-1	<u>25-1</u>
Surry Bay (C Brooks)	33-1	20-1	<u>25-1</u>	25 <u>-1</u>
Each-way a quarter the odds, p	laces 1, 2, 3	(Cheltenham,	Thursday, 13	Marchi
				===

PLUR OR

HYPERION 12.40 Emeraid Statement 1.10 Aldwick Colonnade 1.40 Mr Matt 2.10 FAIRELAINE (nap) 2.40 Credon 3.10 Equity's Darling 3.40 ismeno

Left-hand, undulating course with starp bends. Tricky downhill fence in back straight. Upbill run-in of 200yds.

If Course is off A275 south of Haywards Heath. Plumpton station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members \$13; Tattentells \$5; Course \$5. CAE PAES: \$4 (centre of entire) & \$1.

GOING: Good to soft (soft in piaces)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None.
LONG DESTANCE EUNNERS: Enginet (1.10) & General Moukter (3.40)
sers 167 miles by M Pipe from Nicholasbayne, Devon; Bestson (1.40) &
Scothy (12.40) sent 139 miles by R Buckler from Melphah, Dorset; Urben Lily (2.10) & Little Hooligan (3.40) sent 135 miles by R Hoogesfrom Charkon Adam, Soncewer, Bean Bahlitard (1.40) & Galdbay Chocohate (2.40) sent 129 miles by P Nicholls from Dischest, Someract; Copper Coll (3.10) & Balans Ball (12.40) sent 128 miles by W Turner from
Corton Derham. Someract.

12.40 DITCHLING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

P QUEEN OF THE SUR (31) H Miletel 7 10 7. - 1 cocursor -BETTING: 4-6 Emoculd Statement, 3-1 Southy, 11-2 Shout To Spank, 14-1 Emar-ald Imagen, 20-1 Halour Boll, 33-1 others

E	1.10	HENFIELD SELLING HANDICAP HURS G) £2,450 added 2m 1f	ALE (CLASS
1	0015/10-	ALDWICK COLOMBADE (328) M Usher 9 11 10	W McFarles
2	60421-05	WARRANT (USA) (11) M Page 8 11 9	A P McCoy '
3	4-65F03	WOLDER HAZARD (8) S Dow 4 11.3	
4	1408/-5	AL HARL (USA) (34) R O'Suban 7 11 1	
5		FROM TOWN (SOOT P Buter 7 11 0	
6	4200	GREFFOR'S CORL (6) P Mooney 4 10 12	S Ryen (5
7	. R543F-	PERSIAN BLD (381) J Booley 8 10 11	Bosid
8		TRESON AUCTOREER (208) (CD) Mis Librar 8 10 B	
9		SUCHERLY SPECIAL (44) B Pages 4 10 3	
10		RUTH'S CAMBLE (23) Mrs Lienel 8 10 1	
		- 10 declares -	
Æ	TINE 7-4	Keytaat, 5-2 Akielek Colomascie, 5-1 Water Hazard, 6	3-1 At Hast, 10-
_ `			

1.40	OWL HOLDINGS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 5f
1274-12	REAL EMBILLARIO (12) (CD) P Michols 9 12 0
PP04-32	NR NATT (22) (CD) D Greed 8 11 4B Femion
25213-F	BEGISON (31) P Bucker 7 10 8
P-6535U	BLACK CHARCK (22) (CD) (RF) R Rove 10 10 5
	JOKER JACK (15) R Deen 11 10 0
	ht; 10st. True handicep weight: Joher Jack 8s; 3th.
77845- 7.A	Disab Charak, G.A. Born Robillard 11.A Mr Matt. 7-2 Robinst. 50-1

210 BRIGHTON NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS

	Officer		
BΕ	TOIR 11-1	O Fairniaine, 5-4 Urban Lily, 14-1 Robin Island, 20-1 Wazapite, 25-	Ì
		~5 declared —	
5	P270-1U	UERBAN LILY (4) (D) R Hoolers 6 10 3 Hearts (7)	I
4	P#-	NOWSPIE (1104) P Mooney 6 10 5S Ryan (3
3		ROBIN ISLAND (432) P Hodger 4 10 8	
2		SRR OLINER (332) 8 Peace 7 11 0	
1		FARELANIE (ID K Beiley 4 11 1 A P McC	
Ľ		F) £2,650 added 2m 1f	
12	Z_31J	5 CO CEO	

126-256 TITAL EMPRESS IN S. Medor 7 10 0. 60minum weight: 10st, The handlop weights: Nam Empress Ser 13th, Ambinum Ser 76 BETTNMS 5-2 Credon, 3-1 Cellin Town, 7-2 Childhay Chocolete, 5-1 Than Empress 11-2 Januarie Clanate, 8-1 Lay It Off, 12-1 Mighty Frolic, 33-1 others 3.10 CHAILEY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds 45-15 HONEY MOUNT (11) (7) N Water 5 12 0 ... 6433-44 QUENNE (8) K Balley 5 11 13...... 6433-44 QUINNA (B) K Bakey 5 11 13...
Q-23425 COPPER COR, 60) W Turner 6 11 11
Q-530 DIFFICULT DEDISION (SQ) MIS N. JONES 5 11 9...
35065 FINENES FINENESI (22) O STRENGO 6 11 6...
Q-2522 EQUITYS DANIANS (22s) D O'Bren 4 11 3...
Q-548 MRSS SEDERT (DS) C Microel 6 11 0...
330629 - MASSY BOY (572) K Burner 7 10 13
PUA-O TED SERVICK (Q3) J May 7 10 7...
545 LOUGH TALLY (17) F Jorden 6 30 12 2...
310 declared - ...
310 declared - ... __J Power (7) .Densk Bytne — 137 meterfed — BETTENE: 2-1 Fairles Forewell, 7-2 Hösey Moest, 4-1 Quinag, 5-1 Copper Coll, 7-1 Equity's Durling, 8-1 Difficult Decision, 9-1 Lough Tully, 12-1 others 3.40 EASTBOURNE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 4f

2.40 GALLEANO' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f 110yds

2.2,650 added 2m 4f

333111 ESHENL MOURTAR CI) M Poe 8 12 1 (Teo A P McDoy

151-257 STONEY WALLEY (25) (C) J J Inhan 6 12 0 A M Millionson

3 S1P ISMEND (339) S Doy 5 11 9 A Dicken

4 PLISALTY WARSEINER SIDK (LI) (20) (SIS) R Rose 8 10 12 D O'SMEND

5 23-8514 LITTLE HOOLIGAN (C2) R Hotige 5 10 10 ... T Demonths (3)

6 GORTS P RAMIN (150) (8) (0) S Woodran 11 10 2 ... S Minister

7 OCICIAN DO SE WARE (22) (2) FRICT-Hopes 5 10 0 ... S Fricton 8

AMINISTAT weight 10st. True handless weight Do Se Ware 9x 70.

BETTING: evens Gement Moultier, 7-2 Whisting Buck, 9-2 Stoney Valley, 7-1 Little Hooligan, 8-1 Ismano, 14-1 Do Se Ware, 25-1 Rosein

3.10: 1. 600 SPEED YOU (A Maguina) 7-4 fav; 2. Dromaters 2-1; 3. Record Lover 13-2. 9 ram. 1½, 24. (C. Mortock). Totes: £2.60; £1.40, £1.70, £1.10. DF: £2.60. CSF: 65.75. Tricast: £14.87. Tric: £2.80.

1.40: 1. PRIDEWOOD PICKER (D.) Ka-Vennigh 5-2 fey: 2. Glowing Path; 11-4; 3. Schristzie 12-1, 11 mm, 1½, 2. (R. Proc.). Tota: 54,10; 52.20, 5; 50, 52.30, DF: 55,70. CSP: 53,74. Trigest: £64,45, Tric: £55,80.

2.40; 1. FURST BEE (S Wynne) 10-1; 2. Caddy's Flost 10-1; 3. CRounel News 9-2. 12 ran. 2-1 fav Nashaet (5th). 1, 3. (F Jorden), Tota: £13.90; £2.00. £1.90, £1.70. scest: £28.80. CSF: £99.38. Trio: Tho: £56.00.

25.10 (25.1 MRS EM (D Burnus) 11.8 fax; 2. Nag of The Buses 8-1; 3. Mediem Pel-ly 50-1. 11 mm, 4, 3. (P Nicholis). Total 2.50; 21.70; 22.90; 27.60, Dec 27.60. CSF: £14.08. Tho: £1.67.40 (part won, pool of £1.88.68 to Hundrigston 1.00 today). Jackpot: not won (pool of £62,822.40 carned forward to Humington today). Placepot: £349.30. Quadpot: £54.90. Place 8: £1,311.65. Place 5: £595.74. 250:1. NOVAN (A Dobbar) 11-8 tar; 2. Herd-don Haugh 50-1; 3. Ninrbie Mars 13-8. 8 ran. 13, shr-hd. (R Fahey), Tota: \$2,50; 51,90, 55,40, £1,00. DF; £24,40. (SF; £42,83.

12.5(r.) Burers strenger (Praner) 50-1; 2. Trep Denter 4-5 fay; 3. Little Rething 7-1.9 ran. 2, 1½, (E Blott); Totae E31.20; £2.40. £1.20, £1.50. DF: £27.30. CSF: £85.62. Trease: £320.23. NR: Jonean. 1.20; 1. CHARSHING BALE (M Foster) 4-1 g fax; 2. Profileccio 4-1 g fax; 3. Profileccio 4-1 g fax; 3. Profiler 6-1. 8 ran. 3, 6. (Mrs S Brachume). Totas: £4.00; £1.30, £1.10, £3.40, DF. £9.20, CSF; £18.58.

Treast, £81_98, Trio: £77,20, NR: Montrave. 1.50: 1. STASH THE CASH IR Carrity) 6-4 ft fav; 2. Fep Terrier 6-4 ft fav; 3. Peggy Gor-don 6-1. 7 ran. 4, 12. (M Harmond). Total: 22.00; £2.20, £1.10, DF: £1.60, CSF: £3.86 2.20; 1. COMMANDER GLEN (R Garrity) 5-2; 2. Leap in The Dark 3-1; 3. Kings Minstead 6-4 fav. 5 ram. 4, 11/2. (M Harrin Table: £2.50; £2.40, £2.50. DF: £3.80, CSF:

2.0: 1. CARLISLE BANDTO'S (M Motorey) 7-2; 2. Coble Lane 3-1; 3. Lord o'The Lock 6-4 fax. 8 rap. 6, 2%. U Borry). Toke; 65-30; 61-10, 61-10, 61-40. DF: 56-60. CSF: £14-85.

SEDGEFIELD

12.50 Grand Cru 1.20 Paperising 1.50 Huso 2.20 One For The Pot 2.50 Willie Sparkle 3.20

Course is less than a rule south-west of town near junction of A689 and A177, Bus service from Stockson radiusly station (nine miles away) or Durbam rall station (12 miles away). ADMISSION: Paddock S8 (OAPs 54); Course 52. CAR PARE: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Aylesbury lad (1.50), Mullius (3.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Reve de Value (2.20)

12.20 GOLDEN LION NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added 2m 5f 110yds

~ 19 DESERVED - 12.50 GOLDEN LION NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added 2m 5f 110yds

BIOS (PR) Y Tar. 4 10 12 R McCarthy (7)

0P000 RESH BIOZ (237) Mix A Senbark 4 10 12 Mr Chie Wilson

004430 MARRE DE MISSQUE (257) M Tocharber 5 10 12 B Handing

1040-24 PAM-ENGING (10) G Repairs 4 10 12 A Dobbin

0560-00 PERSUASIVE TOLENT (24) D Lamb 5 10 12 I Bunke

ENGINEER (15) (10) (10) (10) (10) (10) I Bunke FF29-01 REAL GLEE (17) J Queen 7 10 12 ...

- 9 declared -SETTING: Evens Paperising, 9-4 Majore De Manique, 7-2 Road Glee, 16-1 The Michietonian, 20-1 Erei, Whitegates Wille, 25-1 Irish Bazz, 33-1

1.20 DICKE DODS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 3f 110yds Q44/80-1 EEHGAR (52) Mrs J Goodfelow 7 11 0 E CHEMENT (3)

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1.50 NAGS HEAD MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 3f DSPO-DS ANLESBURY LAD US D Lomb 7 11 5 _______ I Burke 8 OPGS-OP BOSMORTH FISLD (5) Mas 5 Honder-hande 8 11 5 ... Foster V DP-0448 BRIGHT DESTRIY (58) Lottle 5 11 5 ... _____ D Parker V PPO-4U BROOMFILL DIRECT (7) I Howard JOYNO 6 11 5 ... ____ D Septem V DC CONSTY (11) (85) Mas A Sembark 6 11 5 ... ____ J Septem DC CONSTY (11) (85) Mas A Sembark 6 11 5 ... ____ J Allowers DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones 62-402F FINAL BENT (7) I Curit 7 11 5 ... _____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J Mones DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I Wate 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I WATE 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I WATE 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I WATE 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I WATE 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I WATE 6 11 5 ... ____ J MONES DC CONSTOCKE LUCKY (7) I WATE 6 11 5 ... ____ J

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2.50 HOPE INN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 5f

Allimont 10s. The handkop religit (Rods Ssi 46, Averasono 9si 26, ESTINE: 11-4 Wille Sparke, 7-2 Jule Box Billy, 11-2 Deum Led, 6-1 hinds Billz, 7-1 Spar Disk, 22-2 Theodorstruck, 14-1 Walls Court, Mindle, 20-1 Lest Raftage, 25-1 Risty Deu, 40-1 (Arrenastine)

3.20 HARDWICK ARMS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

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FOLKESTONE

1.00: 1. RED RAIA (J Osborne) 20-1; 2.

Par 15-2, 7 ran. 15-8 it tay Royal Diversion

ern Fleet 15-8 jt lav; 3. A Chef Too



RACING RESULTS 180; 1 GREENBACK (C Lievelyn) 8-11 tar; 2. Surset And Vine 10-1; 3. Minuter's Medica 11-1. 5 rap. 11, 8, (P Hobbs). Total: £1.70; £1.80, £5.90. DF: £4.40. CSF: 2.00: 1. DANTES CAVALLER (R DUING

4-6 fee; 2. Kerbell 6-1; 3. Lord Rooble 11-2, 14 ran. /s., 10. (D Gandolfo). Tota: £1.80; £1.10, £2.60, £1.60, DF; £6.20, CSF; £8.37. Tric: £5.70. Non Runner: One For Neugaton. __30: 1. LITTLE MARTINA (J R Kevernegt) 2-1 fer; 2. Miles Disido 9-2; 3. Heusting Mu-sic 5-2, 6 ran, 8, 30. (D Grissel), Tokar £2,90; £2,00. £3,10. Dual Forecast: £5,50, GSF:

£10.78.
S.00: 1. MANERY'S CHOICE (P Herisy)
11-10 fav; 2. Mindelfor Paul 3-1; 3. Early
15-10 fav; 2. Mindelfor Paul 3-1; 3. Early
15-10 fav; 2. 7 min, 1½, 8. (R Ainer). Telec
£1.60; £1.10, £2.50. Duel Forecast £3.40. 3.30: 1 SENERAL MOUNTAR (A P Mc-

3.30: 1. SEPHERAL MOUNTAR (A P AD-COA 8-11 tor; 2. Jackson Filts 4-1; 3. In-dian Queet 4-1, 4 ran, 3, 5. (M Pipe). Toks £1.60. Dual Forecast: £4.10. Computer Straight Forecast: £3.95. Non Runner; Snow Piecepat: £10.00. Quadpot: £2.10. Pince 6: £8.28. Piace & £3.40.

LUDLOW 12.40: 1. COLWALL (K Hibbert) 10-1; 2. First Cites 7-2 by; 3, Saitis 7-1, 12 ran. 3, 4, Orios P Whotel). Total: £11.70; £3.20, £2.30, £2.70. DF. £14.10. CSF: £40.47. Tr CRST \$238.32. Trick \$46.40. 1.10: 1. SCOTTISH BANKS (A Maguire) 11-4; 2. Chemy's Lad 1-3 far, 3. Monaughty Man 25-1. 4 ran. 1½, 19. (P Webber). Tota:

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Willie Sparkle (Sedgefield 2.50) NB: Black Church (Plumpton 1.40)

2.10:1. OPPLIS TRESPOR (MSZ 47.50) 15-1; 2. Falry Park 14-1; 3. Just One Canalatte 4-1, 5 mm, 4-5 ms Stoni, 4, 1% U M Bratish, Totas 27, 90; 52.00, 54.30. DF, 536.20, DSP, 5129.15.

12.20: 1. KILNAMARTYRA GERL (A Thom-ton) 3-1 far; 2. Arten Spirit 7-2; 3. Some-thing Spendy 16-1. 11 pan. 5, 10. U Perica). Tota: 54.70; £3.90, £1.10; £3.90, DF; £7.20.

Place & £6.88, Place \$: £4.04.

The second most important change is that rugby football has at last come to terms with the invention of the jet engine

The most important development of the past few years is the open pro-tertain problems with forwards the League day which saw, among otherwise the certain problems with forwards the fessionalisation of rugby. Indeed, it is the most crucial change in the entire history of the game. The second most important change, in my opin-ion – for some people would say it is in the laws - is that rugby football has at last come to terms with

the invention of the jet engine.
It is something I have long urged in this column (which recently celebrated or, rather, refrained from celebrating its 10th anniversary). Lengthy tours, I argued, were no longer necessary. Rugby footballers could now travel the world with as much ease as United Nations officials or national politicians, and with considerably more agility, though the size of aircraft seats, and the leg

size they are.

So it has turned out. South Africa have been briefly in France and on Sunday travel to Cardiff. Australia have played the Celtic nations but not England and met the Barbarians on their visit to Twickenham. England have played Italy, and a virtual New Zealand Test side masquerading as the New Zealand Barbarians are to meet Argentina on Saturday. It is as mouvemente as the revived property market in Islington. It has been highly instruc-tive. But I do not think it has been

very well worked out. For instance: why could Aus-

er things, an epic encounter between Bath and Harlequins.

Bath would have been reluctant to release such players as Phil de Glanville, Jeremy Guscott, Mike Catt, Adedayo Adebayo and Jon Sleightholme, even if it seems that Sleightholme can only get a game for England these days, as the club understandably prefers Jason Robinson on the right wing. Quins would have felt the same about Will Carling and Jason Leonard, who was not playing on Saturday because he was injured.

The compromise was that Aus-



clude any of the players just men-tioned or either of the Quins' Irishmen, Jim Staples and Keith Wood. On these occasions the Barbarians have traditionally fielded a Lious tralia met a Barbarians XV, though XV including, however, one untralia not have played a full England side? What was the objection? Last the Barbarians were themselves a capped player. The side they assome compromise side. They did not insembled on Saturday were

tribute to the organisation and appeal of the club, who have been written off even more frequently than today's Oxford v Cambridge match. But nevertheless they were not the strongest available side in the British Isles.

The other result of the pre-Christmas comings and goings has been a renewal of head-shaking and, sometimes, head-banging about the superiority of the Southern Hemi-sphere. Can we, will we ever, do we sincerely want to catch up? These are the questions that have been most earnestly discussed. It is surely time to put them into some kind of historical perspective. South Africa and New Zealand

remarkable recovery from their long spell of exclusion from international rugby. The British Isles have enjoyed a limited period, not of clear superiority, but of having a slight edge. This was in 1970-75.

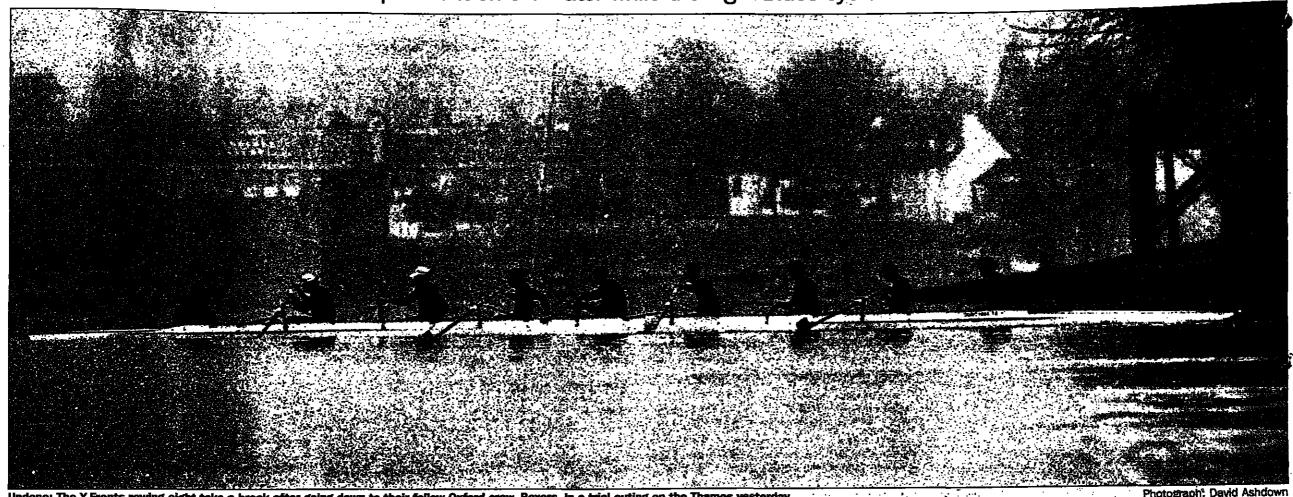
The main historical development has been the rise of Australia, all the more laudable (to the extent that praise or blame comes into it at all) because the game in Australia has to compete with Rugby League, with football and with Australian Rules football Within the British Isles the broad developments have been the rise of England and the decline of

The rise of England has meant that our forwards are now able to

andoubtedly formidable - on paper, have always been the two major at any rate. They were a substantial powers. South Africa have made a tribute to the country of mental agility, with ways in terms of mental agility. land. The decline of Wales, whose strength was always in their backs, has meant that we (I mean the British Isles as a whole) no longer possess that slight superiority behind the scrum which, however, was never enough to win matches on its

John Hart, the New Zealand manager, said after the New Zealand-Barbarians match that England had not got the balance right between weight and speed. No doubt he is correct. It would also be helpful if players learnt to do the simple things: to give a pass, to take a pass and not to kick the ball straight back at the opposition.

VARSITY SPORTS: Oxford rowers experiment on the water while the Light Blues eye a hat-trick of victories on the rugby pitch



Undone: The Y-Fronts rowing eight take a break after going down to their fellow Oxford crew, Boxers, in a trial outing on the Thames yesterday

HUGH MATHESON

Dutch coach's radical changes to engine room

From the moment they appeared on the Tideway, the Oxford trial crews for the 1997 Boat Race on 29 March demonstrated and each quickly settled into a withdrawn with flu. The Oxford dies on a yellow card how a boat rhythm of about 34 strokes per President, Ed Bellamy, moved for past steering clashes and was lovely easy rhythm and Luka smith Bridge.

Where the Hammersmith bend dies out after St Pauls, Mick-Dutch Olympic eight which won Boxer, was generally a pip lowgold by a length in Atlanta, their approach to the transfer of and he fell behind by about a power from man to craft has

ion School and Situ er than Tim Foster stroking Y, quarter-length after a minute.

Foster, an experienced The two crews, "Y-fronts" and British international, had a

junior trial eight.

Foster's crew, on the Surrey station, held its narrow lead around the Fulham flats. This was in part because James Micklethwait, his cox, was able smith. Behind him, the pair of to crowd Robinson's boat out of Etonian junior internationals,

3min 37sec, when the bend began to turn against him, Robinson appeared to raise the game and was able to draw level as they approached Hammer-

the University Stone yesterday, after Charlie Humphries had the stream Robinson's cox Alex Andrew Lindsay and James pull back in front, and shot a kept the crew in good heart. from the four to the six seat and under orders not to push back. Grubor, the Croatian interna-Grand Challenge Cup with Imperial College last summer, was beginning to show the full effect of his 15st 10lb streugth.

But Foster, at 27, was canny enough to use the bend and Micklethwait's aggression to

Humphries for the final seat in the blue boat, looked small beholding the rhythm well and responded, and along Chiswick half-length" in 17min 10 sec.

Bellamy, who may well find lethwait had his final attempt to

This time he would not go and the crews clashed blades. tween Damian West in the No Foster, as expected from one 5 seat and Roberto Blanda at who stroked London Universi-No 7, both of whom claim 6ft ty, emerged with an extra two-6in measurements, but he was seats advantage, But Robinson

Eight they drew level then took

a canvas lead. Neither crew looked strained

at the finish, and the quality of the rowing and quantity of work never wavered. There was another small clash as the river turned, once again, in Foster's favour after Chiswick gain the lead. Although the stern four of Robinson's crew was giving away 18 years in experience to the stern four of Y-Fronts, they prevailed by what coach Mijnders called "a long ,

Underdogs draw strength from Tucker's memory

CHRIS HEWETT

Ouentin de Bruyn, the captain of Oxford University but raised in a far harder school of rugby than most of his fellow Dark Blues, can face the fire and fury of this afternoon's 115th Varsity match at Twickenham with a rare degree of equanimity. No matter what problems the frantic, helter-skelter contest throws at him, he knows he has already passed the greatest test of leadership he is ever likely to encounter.

The death of Ian Tucker, the young Australian centre who died from head injuries suffered in Oxford's warm-up match with

ed any part of rugby. Indeed, De Bruyn himself went through a prolonged period of self-ques-tioning. For all his experience of the harsh and unsentimental realities of the game in Bloemfontein and Cape Town, Tucker's tragedy devastated him.

Six weeks on, De Bruyn has at least succeeded in restoring the competitive edge to a side that bore the stamp of underdogs even before the Saraceus incident knocked the stuffing from them. "It hasn't been easy for any of us - some of the players understandably felt that they never wanted to touch a rugby ball again," said the captain, "I think now, however, that we are in a position to do our best by Ian and

take the game to Cambridge with everything we have." That is no mean achievement. De Bruyn's motivational diffi-

culties were compounded by the knee injury he picked up at Bath - he was ruled out for a month and missed several important fixtures - and he could not even turn to those of his countrymen touring with the Junior Springboks for a timely boost in morale. The Boks played both universi-ties and, after giving Oxford a fearful 49-12 hiding, several of them predicted a comfortable victory for Cambridge.

That opinion is borne out by almost every litmus test you care to apply to this afternoon's match. To begin with, the Light Blues are by some distance the

most seasoned outfit - they field six of last year's triumphant starting line-up plus Ben Ryan, the scrum-half who played as a replacement for almost an hour of that game, and Nick Walne, a Wales Under-21 wing who won a Blue two seasons ago and would have taken part in 1995 but for an ankle injury. By comparison, Oxford go in with only three Blues, including De Bruyn.

Cambridge also look better equipped in the ball-winning areas. They possess a class second row pairing in Richard Bramley, the captain from Yorkshire who has led both England Students and England Under-21s, and Andrew Craig, a seriously useful New Zealander whose grounding with Waikato (don't

mention the name Waikato to the British Lions) has established him as a kingpin forward.

With Martin Hyde, a 6ft 4in blindside flanker from Sydney, giving them a further line-out option and Nick Holgate, a mobile tighthead prop, back in harness after recovering from a broken jaw – in traditional front-row fashion he went to the aid of a cyclist who lay injured in Cambridge city centre and was badly beaten up for his trouble -Bramley's pack looks to be the

dominant unit. For his part, De Bruyn has gambled by omitting Karl Svo-boda, the Canadian international hooker, along with the Frenchman Jerome Riondet, who played at centre last year.

Nick Hockley and Trevor standably reluctant to attach the Walsh, a graduate freshman from Queensland, get the nod. Where Oxford just may have

an edge is at half-back, where the former Irish national captain Niall Hogan partners the big kick-ing outside-half from Bristol, James Averis. If Averis, a cricketer of county standard, makes anything like the impact of his immediate predecessor, Oxford will be in the pound seats; David Humphreys played so brilliantly for the Dark Blues in last season's exciting encounter that he collected a record 19 points and, but for a late and controversial penalty try, would surely have won the

day single-handed. Bramley, who wins his fourth successive Blue today, is underremotest importance to the form book, even though his side s victory over Queensland last month gave them all the confidence in the world. The Varsity match is like no other occasion in the sport - it's a one-off, a totally unpredictable fixture. People pull out one or two results from the warm-up programme and try to make a judgement on that basis, but this is a different day and a

different atmosphere. No one can tell what will happen." If Bramley tastes Bowring Bowl victory this afternoon for the third time in as many years. it will come as no surprise. But if De Bruyn lifts the trophy – and there have been greater shocks in this famous old student show-

piece - the tearful toasts will be

Spin ups

to one man: Ian Tucker.

Norton stand out

Hockey

BILL COLWILL

With the majority of Regional Leagues now into their mid-winter break, there have been several outstanding performances by learns striving to gain, or in some cases regain, promotion to the National League. None more so than in the North where Norton, with Guy Bolsover on nine goals leading far averaged just over five goals the way and with a game in hand, are seven points clear of

Formby. In the East the Adnams Premier club Cambridge City, with goals from Gareth Machin (two), Julian Archer and Jeremy Allen, won 4-1 away to Dereham at the weekend to maintain their full points record and are now six points ahead of

Chelmsford. In the South Nastro Azzurro Premier there is a neck and neck race between two ciubs who have both previously, like

Cambridge City, tasted National League hockey. Hamp-stead and Westminster and Anchorians are already nine points clear of the field.

Jan-Job van Dijk's hat trick set Hampstead and Westminster on their way to a comfortable 5-0 away win at Wimbledon, with the player-coach Rob Thompson and Nottinghamshire's Rob Turner completing the scoring. Hampstead have so a game. Mark Crowley, a medical student, leads the way on 18, with Thompson in second place with 10.

Anchorians, with a much inferior goal difference, kept the pressure up on Hampstead with a 4-1 win away to Spencer. Goals from Mark Constable, Richard Barrett, Neil Gordon and Mike Gillett won the day, with Jon Stenner replying for Spencer.

Wales gain physical presence

Rugby Union

Pontypridd's Dale McIntosh and Mark Rowley will win their first caps when they take thier places in the Welsh pack to face the world champions, South

Africa, in Cardiff on Sunday. McIntosh, a New Zealander who played for Scotland A three years ago but has now completed his Welsh qualification period, replaces another Kiwi, Hemi Taylor, at blindside flanker. He impressed for the Barbarians against Australia last Saturday and his call-up was

widely expected. The elevation of the 6ft 7in Rowley is a surprise, as Richmond's Craig Quinnell had been tipped to take over from Derwyn Jones, the ont-of-form Cardiff lock. Wales make two other changes from the side beaten 28-19 by Australia a CHAMPIONS TROPHY (Mankas, third day): German, 1 retrievants 2. Positions (effor two reamain: 1 retrievants 6pc; 2 rate 3: 3 Germany 2: 4 Raissan 3: 6 Australia 1: 6 Spain 1.

during that game, retains the No 15 jersey, while the Swansea flanker Colin Sharvis makes his first full appearance after going on when Taylor was injured against the Wallabies.

Gareth Thomas has been selected at centre despite suffering a nasty mouth injury while playing for his club Bridgend against Pontypridd at the weekend, and Robert Howley plays at scrum-half after feeling a slight hamstring twinge during the Barbarians' match.

Jonathan Davies retains his place at stand-off, winning his 29th cap, but there is no place for Scott Quinnell, who is still

involved in a pay dispute with the Welsh Rugby Union. Kevin Bowring Wales' coach, confirmed that his selection of 32-year-old Rowley and his Pontypridd colleague McIntosh had been to give Wales much needed added physical presence in the back five. "After the game against Aus-

needed to adjust the balance Nathan Thomas, who was among the back five," Bowring said. "We needed players with an additional physical edge able ing Bath's 35-20 Courage an additional physical edge able to stamp their authority in the forward exchanges and on the at the weekend. game as a whole - McIntosh. Charvis and Rowley fit into

that category." Bowring confirmed Jenkins would replace Jonathan Davies as goal-kicker, but stressed Jenkins has been told he is still in contention for the No 10 jersey. Richmond's Allan Bateman is the latest former rugby league player to be recalled. He will start on the replacements' bench.

The Welsh Emerging side to face South Africa A at Swansea on Saturday includes Richard Webster, the former Salford rugby league player. Now with Bath, he returns to the Wales fold almost four years after winning his last cap, against France in Paris, and is one of 10 full internationals named. Webster will be joined in the tralia it became obvious we back row by his club colleague

League victory over Harlequins

at the weekend.

Males (v South Africa, Cardiff, Sunday): N
Jankins Portypridd; I Emms (Lavelli, S dibbs
(Swaresa), of Thomase (Endernd), D James
(Bridgend): J Davies (Cardiff, R House)
(Cardiff, C Loader (Swinsen), J Hamphreys
(Cardiff, Capt), D Young (Cardiff, B Lewelly)
(Hadequars), M Rowfey (Portypridd), D Medicates
(Portypridd), S Williams (Necth), C
Charvis (Swaresa), Replacements: A Bathman (Richmond), A Thomas (Swaresa), P John
(Portypridd), C Quinnell (Edchrond), I Muston (Cardiff), G Jenkins (Swaresa), toe (Cardif), O Jenkine (Sversea),
EMERGING WALES XV (v South Africa A.
Svensea, Saturday): J Thomse (Cardif); G
Evens (Llanell), L Device (Cardif), J Lavis
(Porthyridd), N Waller (Cardif), J Lavis
(Cardif), A Moore (Richmond, capt); A Lavis
(Cardif), A Moore (Richmond, capt); A Lavis
(Cardif), A Wallers (Cardif), J Marie
(Cardif), A Wallers (Cardif), J Wallers
(Porthyridd), Replacements: N Boobyer (Llavell), M Lavis (Eridgend), H Parries (Harledyns),
C Wyset (Lunell), N Eyene (Porthyridd), R
McBryde (Lunell).

MoBryde (Jenelli).
WRU PRESIDENTS UNDER-21.XV (v Natel Under-22, Sweases, Seturdary): K Margan (Poropridd): R Shomey (UNC Untersty of Video Institute. Cariff) T Device (Linnelli, J Funnelli, Newton (Newton), G Wysett (Portypodd): S Commer (Newton), G Wysett (Portypodd): S Commer (Newton), D Hawkins (Newton, capt): I Thomas (Portypod) J Richard (UNIC), C Anthony (Swenses), V Cooper (Linnelli, N Watthmoor (Newton), A Device (UNIC), 6 Newmann (Newton), J Ringer (Cortiff), Replacementar 6 Downes (Sidgerst), D Moore (Newton), L Woodward (Portypod) G Thomas (Newton), S Gardener (Newton), D Thomas (Spanses).

No peace for Ayr

ice hockey STEVE PINDER

After Nottingham Panthers' 5-3 defeat of Ayr Scottish Eagles in the Benson & Hedges Cup at Sheffield on Saturday, Superleague hostilities resumed on Sunday with Ayr entertaining Bracknell Bees and Panthers welcoming Basingstoke Bison. Bees were the southerners to

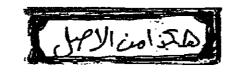
give the best account of themselves in a see-saw match with Ayr showing no sign of post-Cup defeat hangover. Vince Boe gave Ayr the lead after six minutes but Bees fought back to lead 5-3 at the end of the second period with five different scorers beating Colum Cavilla

Ayr showed the sort of spir-Young levelling the game with 16 minutes to go. With eight minutes left, Jamie Steer looked to have scored the winner for relief.

Eagles only for Wayde Bucsis to tie the score at 6-6 with two mintites to go. Ayr must have wanted anything but overtime but they rallied and held Bees for the statutory 10 minutes with the points shared.

Nottingham, in contrast, had a fairly easy wind down. Bison were beaten 6-1 but the margin was more down to the Panthers keeper, Trevor Robbins, who let by only one of the 30 shots on goal he faced, rather than Bas-ingstoke's lack of ability.

Panthers' win moved them up to third from bottom of the Supericague but Cardiff Devils still head the league after their 4-3 victory over Sheffield Steelers. Devils were 4-2 up when Tommy Plommer scored for Steelers. With neither the referce or linesman seeing it, it was left to it they could have used at the goal judge to adjudicate and Sheffield, with Boe and Scott he awarded the goal. Devils managed to hold on for the victory, which meant that judge could breathe a huge sigh of



Atherton still fishing for a suitable Test line-up

Cricket

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DEREK-PRINGLE reports from Bulawayo

> It is one of the more enduring gripes of modern cricketers that they work twice as hard as the Abnighty did during the first week of Creation. And so it proved yesterday when, on the 14th day of the tour, the play-ers finally rested, taking their first day off to enjoy some local hospitality and colour

around the city. England have been made to feel very mortal all of a sudden, and the tenacity of Zimbabwe's small cricketing population has

brought home just how precar- where the views, and precariious life can be among the min-

How appropriate because the skipper, Michael Atherton, spent his day fishing, taking a large contingent of players off to shoot and fish at a nearby game ranch owned by Dennis Streak, the father of Heath, Zimbabwe's opening bowler. Francolin as well as 50 small catfish were bagged and caught in a day that brought colour to the cheeks as sunblock was left idle

in unopened cricket bags.

Jack Russell and Nick Knight, the artists in the party, upped with sketchpads and paints to the Matopo hills, ing the outside world with sus-

ously balanced granite boulders around the grave of Cecil Rhodes, offer the kind of raw landscape not glimpsed around Chipping Sodbury, where Rus-sell has his gallery. Sadly he may have even more time than normal to apply the finishing touches, if England persist in giving Alec Stewart the gloves.

churlish behaviour, which in-volved the team snubbing the opposition's offer of a postmatch drink, time away from the cricket is vital if a healthy perspective is to be kept. Huddling together and eye-

However, after last week's

picion is fine for nervous chickens, but for cricketers - even constantly illustrate. those taking unusually faltering steps as Atherton's men have so far - it is a foolhardy habit, and merely serves to spread selfdoubt, the scourge of every sportsman and woman.

Mind you, taking time off, when the cogs are running anything but smoothly, can also leave the decision-makers open to criticism, particularly from the performance puritans. They advocate hard work, and "being seen to be doing the right thing," which are the enemies of inspired play, a smattering of which tends to win more matches than solid all-round performance, as teams

like Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Unsurprisingly, England's woeful start to this tour has brought more than its fair share of furrowed brows, despite the captain's claims that his squad remain supremely confident, and are simply taking longer than normal to defrost skills that

have recently lain idle. The problem is - as the assistant coach, John Emburey, pointed out the other day - that losing, like winning, can become a habit. Fortunately, England have broken that cycle, with Sunday's victory against Matabeleland, whom they again play today on the slow pitch at Bu-

lawayo Athletic club, the last four-day match before the Test. which starts in eight days' time.

Ideally, this means that Atherton would like to play the team closest to the one he intends to rely on in the first Test, tinkering rather than restruc-turing his team for that match at the Queen's Club.

As yet, though, he has few clues - other than a bit of local disinformation - as to how the pitch will play, and even less idea of the batting order he wants to go with, now that Alec Stewart's move to No 3 has had the effect of destabilising the entire batting order. That is something only John able to cope with so far.

The team may pick itself, if the niggling injuries to Phil Tufneli and Ronnie Irani (both groin strains) as well as Stewart (back spasm) are monitored rather than put to the test. That would give Chris Silver-wood and Andy Caddick, who spent yesterday perusing the wildlife dioramas housed in this city's excellent Natural His-

tory museum, a last chance to stake their claims. Also, Alan Mullally would miss a last chance to put his feet up before the serious cricket

resembling a mid-season groove.

Darren Gough is getting there, but has yet to reach the penetrative heights achieved during those heady couple of weeks in Australia two Christmases ago, when he looked every bit a Test match bowler. So far be has looked fluent without looking dangerous, something the majority of England's bats men cannot even begin to claim.

With a prolonged evening thunderstorm damping every thing down, their resolve could again be given a searching test if the pitch has sweated under starts. He has bowled steadier the covers and Atherton shows than a fish eagle's gaze and is his usual poor form with the toss.

Brighton have two points deducted

pended sentence of a three-

point deduction, and the closure

of the ground for one match.

hanging over them following disturbances last April.

The FA decided not to acti-

vate the suspended sentence in

full once their crowd control

commission found them guilty

of failing to control their spec-tators. Instead they deducted

The Coventry chairman

Bryan Richardson has pledged that money would be available

to attract players even if the

clubs goes ahead with propos-

als to take over Coventry Rug-

Football

Brighton's hopes of surviving in the Football League were considerably reduced last night when the Nationwide League's bottom club were fined two points by the Football Association. It leaves the manageriess club now 11 points adrift at the bottom of the Third Division.

The FA - which is trying to broker a solution to Brighton's off-the-field problems - punished the club for the two pitch invasions made by protesting fans during the game against Lincoln on 1 October.

The club already had a sus-

Arsenal's French link Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal Patrick Vieira, now with Arse-manager, said yesterday the nal after a spell at Milan.

north London club were considering a partnership with the French First Division side Cannes for the training of young players.

said Arsenal and Cannes were about to "sign a partnership in the field of training and talent spotting". A number of promising players have emerged from

£36m jackpot after Bass yes-

terday agreed to treble their cur-

rent sponsorship input over the

FA Carling Premiership, re-

placing the original £12m deal

which expires this summer, is

another feather in the cap of the

Premier League's departing

Now, though, a replacement

is needed for the former ac-

countant, who has confirmed his

announcement of last week that he is leaving to take up a

An appointments commit-

similar post at Liverpool.

chief executive, Rick Parry.

The new agreement for the

next four years.

ern Munich president, plans to clear the air with Jürgen Klins-mann early in the New Year, following the striker's criticism on The former Monaco coach national television of the team's playing style, and his threat to leave at the end of the season. The striker scored Bayern's goal in their 1-0 win over Borussia Mönchengladbach on Saturday

Franz Beckenbauer, the Bay-

- only his fifth of the season.

chairman Alan Sugar, West Ham's Terry Brown, Newcastle's

Freddie Fletcher and Everton's

Phil Carter has the job of head

volved it will be to support the rugby team and make sure, in every way we can, that they get up into Division One. If it requires investment in the signing of players, then it will be done."

ground-share at Highfield Road, would be a viable proposition. Carling treble their money Premiership clubs will share a tee comprising the Tottenham and Southampton's Jim Mag-

ilton, only for Magilton to with-

draw through injury. Hamilton

has now turned to the un-

capped 21-year-old Queen's

Park Rangers defender, Mark

ment we are simply evaluating

their financial status and future

contractual commitments to

try to work out how much mon-

ey will be needed. If we get in-

Richardson is keen to ascer-

tain if investing in Coventry

RFC, and with it a possible

Northern Ireland, who con-Graham. His side have lined up time their World Cup campaign on Saturday against Albania, a friendly against Belgium at Windsor Park on 11 February. will be without the veteran Stoke Barry Home, the 34-year-old Birmingham midfielder, has defender Nigel Worthington shrugged off an ankle injury that (back injury) and St Johnstone's threatened to rule him out of Danny Griffin (back). Both Wales' World Cup qualifier against Turkey in Cardiff on Satmen yesterday followed Mill-wall's Anton Rogan in withurday. The uncapped Queen's Park Rangers defender Karl

drawing from the squad. Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, called up Ready has, however, been St Johnstone's George O'Boyle added to the squad.

aim would be to try and push Coventry RFC into Division One of the Courage League if City opted to invest in the Coundon Road-based club. City expressed their interest at an extraordinary general meeting of the rugby club, who as a result delayed making a de-cision on whether to accept a two points and ordered them to £1m investment offer from the pay the costs of the hearing.
Brighton have 14 days to appeal.

property group, Leander.

The football club now have until 16 December to decide whether to put forward any formal bid and, if they do choose to pursue that policy, then rugby club members will decide three days later which proposal to accept.
Richardson said: "At the mo-

Photograph: Allsport

Packers' LeRoy Butler sacks Bill Musgrave of the Broncos 45 (14.45) ### 0 305 244 #### 1 0 305 244 #### 1 0 305 324 #### 1 0 305 325 #### 4 0 30 322 #### 4 0 30 325

Broncos left battered by Pack attack

American football MATT TENCH

It was billed as a Super Bowl rehearsal and turned out to be just like the real thing. The Green Bay Packers and Denver Broncos have been acclaimed as the best sides in their respective conferences this season, but as Sunday's confrontation confirmed, there remains a world of difference between reigning

in the NFC and the AFC. The last time an AFC side won the Super Bowl Ronald Reagan was in the White House and Cheers was still a twinkle in a TV executive's eve. The NFC has won the last 12 Super Bowls, usually by a wide margin, and that pattern continued at Lambeau Field when the Pack crushed a Denver team with only one previous defeat this season 41-6.

If the two meet again at the end of January the Broncos will no doubt make much of the absence of their inspirational quarterback John Elway. Having secured home field advantage throughout the play-offs a week ago, they chose to rest Elway's injured hamstring.

The presence of the journeyman Bill Musgrave in Elway's place might explain a Broncos' strengths this year was supposed to be the lack of reliance on Elway - but surely not a thrashing. Terrell Davis, the running back who has transformed the Broncos offense, was held to 54 yards, and it was a bad day for those, your correspondent among them, who detected a narrowing of the gap between the two conferences.

In fact the Broncos have beaten only one half-decent NFC team all season (and that a somewhat fortuitous success in Minnesota) and a look at Denver's record suggests that its league-leading status owes much to the inferior quality of

the opposition. While Elway rested, Brett of the play-offs.

Favre revelled. The Green Bay play-caller, in the prime of his career, threw for another four touchdowns, three to Antonio Freeman, to take his season's tal-

The victory allowed the Pack to retain their NFC East title, and puts them a game ahead in the race for home-field advantage in the NFC throughout the pkry-offs. Two teams still capable of depriving them of that, San Francisco and Carolina, met for the latest round of what has quickly become one of the league's most

intense divisional rivalries. For the third time in four encounters the Panthers, new to the NFL last year, prevailed to take a marginal lead in the NFC West. A combination of turnovers, crucial 49er penalties and an ability to go deep repeatedly against a normally reliable secondary was enough for the Pan-thers to win 30-24. "They can't be that good, that's not an expansion team I see out there," George

Seifert, the 49ers head coach, said. The Dallas Cowboys returned to the top of the NFC East with a 10-6 victory in Arizona, apparently untroubled by the absence of Leon Lett, their best defensive lineman. Lett was suspended for a year last week, after failing a drugs test. Lett failing a similar misdemeanour. and the year-long ban is mandatory for a seond infringement. Michael Irvin, the Cowboys wide receiver who served his own drugs ban at the start of the season, made the crucial play, a 50-yard YD reception.

Jimmy Johnson, the Cowboys' former head coach now in charge of Miami, had guaranteed a victory at home to the New York Giants, which seemed a reasonable assumption. Afterwards Johnson was forced to make an even less contentious statement. "We showed today we are not a very good football team," he said following the 17-7 defeat which put his side out

Kumble's spin upsets **South African rhythm**

Cricket

The leg-spinner Anil Kumble and the medium-pace bowler Javagai Srinath exploited an uneven pitch to bowl out South Africa for 177 in their first innings, giving India a 60-run lead on the second day of the third Test in Kaupur yesterday. Kumble claimed 4 for 71

and Srinath 3 for 42 as South Africa chased India's first innings of 237. Fanie de Villiers struck back to claim Woorkeri Raman lbw for 2 and leave India 7 for 1 at the close. South Africa were cruising at 121 for 3 before a middle-order

collapse, when they lost four wickets in the space of 30 balls and 10 runs. Kumble engincered it, claiming the wickets of Daryll Cullinan and Hansie

Second day, India won toss
INDIA - Rest teologic
(Overlaght 204 for 8)
R Tandajior c De Villicot is Adams
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24 9-224, nilog: De Villers 15-7-18-0; Klusener 17-4-47-irob): Symens 21-5-57-0; McMalen 18-7-40-2; iros 18-1-8-55-8; Coorje: 10-5-11-2. Agama Ind Local College (1992)

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8 (94 k3) 277 (723 overs) 277 (34 2.73 3.94 4.121 5.126 5.130 7.131 Bosfing Street 16-7-42-3, Presed 14-5-25-0, Kurnels 27-2-71-4, Repoor 8-2-19-2, Joshi 7.3-2-13-0.

American Footbali Marie Recent Rey 41 Denver 5; Pittsburgh 16 Sen Diego 3: Chicago 35 St Louis 9; Cincinnate 21 Bet-timore 14; Landsonville 23 Houston 17; NY Gi-angs 17 Marni 7; Atlenia 31; New Orleans 15; Lannas Bay 24 Westington 10; Dallas 10 Attorne 6; New England 34 NY Jets 10; Sestile 28 Buf-tish 13; Carvina 30 San Francisco 24; Mannestra 24 Detroit 22.

Milatics

Annemari Sandell, the European cross-country champion from Finland, will run in the Bupa County Durham International cross-country event on Saturday, 28 De-

Ledminton England have named two new mixed doubles pairings for the Japan Open and

TODAY'S NUMBER

Tim Henman's ranking among the money earners on the ATP Tour after his £280,000 for reaching the Grand Slam Cup semi-finals boosted his total to £568,000.

SPORTING DIGEST ner the 1.9-year-old Joanne Wright and

Raskethall MBA: Torona 97 Chicago 89; Cleveland 90 LA Clippers 69; Milweulse 100 Boston 87; Golden State 114 San Amorio 88; Proenix 106 Indiana 93; Secremento 91 Orlando 84; LA Lakes 110 Minnecos 88.

The World Bodge Union light-heavyweight championship has fallen vacant after Ion Robinson, the WBU president, refused to sandion last Friday's contest between to sanction last Friday's contest between Montell Griffin and James Toney in Reno, Nevada, because all three judges and the referee were from Nevada. Toney, the titleholder from Chucago, was beet-en by bis Detroit opponent on points. The rules state that Toney be stripped of his championship even though his de-feat came in a non-title bout.

England's batsmen failed to capitalise on an excellent bowling display on the second day of their four-day Under-19 International against Pakistan in Faisalabad after wrapping up the hosts' innings for 256. England then slipped from 192 for 4 to 230 all out, a first-innings refielt of 26

SHETTELD SHEED (Final day of four): Hobart: Victoria 431 for 9 dec (D M Jones 145, L Harb-or 77, D Saker 66nd and 204 for 3 il Harvey Ezno, W Ayres 581; Tasmania 481 for 8 dec (M Diversio 118, DC Boon 118, S'Young 119) and 311 for 2 dec (J Con 132, D Hills 124no). Mattab

Football

Scott Howie, the Motherwell goal-keeper, could be out of action for six weeks after suffering a fractured cheek-bone in Setunday's 2-1, win over Cettic at Fir Park, Howe's cheek is broken in three places and the 24-year-old will un-

Mark Morris, the Boghton captain, will In plaster for three weeks after ruptur-ing ankle ligaments in last week's de-feat by Darlington. The experienced defender was the last player brought to the troubled club by the former man-ager Jimmy Case.

registrative Albert, the Newcastle defend-er who was left out for Beiglum's two previous World Cup qualifiers against Turkey and San Marino, has been re-called to the squad to play the Nether-lands in Brussels on Saturday. Ronny Rosenthal, the Tottenham for-

ward, and Southampton's recent import Eval Berkovitch are both included in is-Eyal Berkovitch are both included in is-raef's 20-man squad to face Livembourg in a World Cup qualifier next week. Hearts are set to lose the Italian de-fender Pasquale Bruno for two match es over the Christims period. Bruno was booked in Saturday's goalless draw against Raith Rovers and now goas over the discriptions undet threshold. The dethe disciplinary points threshold. The de-fender will be banned for games at home to Rangers on Saturday 21 December, and a trip to Dunfermine on Boxing Day.

Mike Milligan, the Norwich City mid-fielder, was back in training yesterday after receiving head injuries in an inci-dent outside a Manchester nightchib on Patrick Kluivert, the Ajax striker, has been

Patrick Nutvert, the Ajax striker, has been receiled to the Dutch squad for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Begum in Brussels. Arsenai's Dennis Bergkamp and Pierre van Hooijdonk of Celtic are also among the forwards named in the 18-man party.

World City Concacor sent-fined round Group A (Los Angeles): Gusternish 2 (Rodes 27, 60)

Timided and Tobigs 1 Ere (30).

ASSAN CIP Framer CWHAN, LIGHE Jason 4 (Nare-

ASSAN CUP Group C (M-Ain, UAS); Japon 4 (Nors-m) 7, K Mura 37, Manzono 86, 901 Lizbelestan C; Chen 3 (Ma Megyu 34, Geo Feng 49, Li Bing 72) Syrta 1 12) Syria U. Avon Pisurance Combination First Division: Swindon 1 Bristol Rovers 3.

Swendon 1 Bristol Rouers 3.

SUROWY'S LIST RESULTS: Relian Langue: Libro 0 Roran 0. Spanish Leegue: Adheoc Bibeo 1 Allebco Madrid 1.

Allebco Madrid 1.

ANTIONING FOOTBALL LEAGUE Postponed metobes: Friday: Donesser v Cardif. Rearranged fotureer: Tue 17 Dec. Brachond City v Racking (from Set 14 Dec.). Tue 4 Febr. Alleredd v Chester (from Tue 19 Novê.

AUTO Webbschessis Stillato Re-arranged focurers: Tue 17 Dec. Singition v Cardif from Re. 10 Dec.). Tue 7 Jun. Seanbig v Wycombe (from Wed 18 Dec.).

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Postponed match-

SONY WORLD RANDOWES: 1 G Norman (Aus)
10.789ts; 2 T Lehrnan (US) 9.61; 3 C Mornglomene (GB 9.05; 4 E ES SAI 9.02; 5 F Coupies (US) 8.55; 6 N Faldo (GB) 8.20; 7 P
Michelson (US) 7.55; 8 N Poldo (GB) 8.20; 7 P
Michelson (US) 7.55; 8 N D M (Orlean (US) 7.32;
0 D Love II (US) 7.55; 9 M (Orlean (US) 7.12;
0 Cher 68 and bt in top 50; 27 I Woosnam
4.62; 40 S Tomance 3.42;

ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE (Standay): Ayr 6 Bracknell 6 (level after oversime); Carolff 4 Sheffield 3; Notungiann 6 Basingstoke 1. Worthleff Basingstoke 1. Worthleff Education (Saturday): Duratives 7 Castlereagh 6 (not); Frie 6 Whitley 4; Posley 16 Murrayheld 0, (Standay): Blackburn 6 Murrayheld 8; Castlereagh 2 Passley 10; Duratives 5 Frie 9.

PREMIER LEAGUE (Saturday): Patertos 3 Kingston 8; Slough 2 Solihuli 6; Svand Medway 8; Telford 2 Guidford 6, (San Kingston 1 Guidford 3; Medway 4 Telfo Seabuil 10 December 19: Svandin 4.6

Rugby League

Ali Davys and Paul Mansson, the half-backs released by the Super League newcomers, Salford Reds, look set to jon Yorkshire clubs. Davys, the Cook Islands scrum-half, has agreed a two-year contract with the First Dhisson outfit, ield Glants, subject to work pe mit clearance. Mansson, the former Canberra Raiders stand-off, is having alks with Hunslet, the Second Division

Andy Gregory, the Salford Reds coach, and the chairman, John Wilkinson, will and the chairman, John Wilkinson, will be in charge of the Great Britain squad for the World Super League Nines in Townsville, Australia, which will be played over three days starting on 31. January. Gregory will finalise his squad of 14 over the next few days.

Richard Kraitcek, the Wimbledon cham pion, will be out of action for up to 10 weeks after undergoing knee surgery yes-terday. The Dutchman, who has suffered from knee prouble for some time, will

Reward for Salford pair

The Salford chairman and coach, John Wilkinson and Andy Gregory, have been rewarded for their club's success by being put in charge of Great Britain's side in the World Nines in Townsville,

Rugby League

writes Dave Hadfield. Gregory, the former Test scrum-half, and Wilkinson will take the British squad to the three-day tournament, which begins on 31 January. "My partnership with John has rearred great rewards for Salford and we are confident we can do well on the international front," said Gregory, who guided Salford into Super League by winning the First Division last season.

Gregory has developed into one of Britain's most promising coaches, but the decision to appoint him could be read as a soub to the Test coach Phil Larder.

Although the tournament falls on a blank weekend between rounds of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, only one player will be selected from each chib. The Nines have been switched to North Queensland after only one year of a planned five in Fiji.

Two of Salford's surplus overseas players are in the process of finding new clubs for next season. The Cook Islander, Ali Davys, has agreed terms with Huddersfield while the New Zealander Paul Mansson is talking to Hunslet.

Football 7.30 Whes stated
AUTO WHOMECREENS SHIELD
HORSTHERM SECTION PREST ROUND
Barry V Darlington (7.45)
Caritale v Rochstels (7.45)

Doncaster v Stockpo Hartiepsel v Bureley Hall City v Chaster ... charbas: v Blackpool (7.45). arbornegh v Hotts County ... SOUTHERN SECTION FIRST ROUND
Bristol Rowers v Breatford
Cambridge Utel v Colchester (7.45)
Laton v Leyton Crient (7.45)
Laton v Leyton Crient (7.45)
Leton v Loyton Crient (7.45)
Caf VALDULL CONFERENCE
Mecclestald v Nidderschafter (7.45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION Dundon Utal v Rangers (8.0) . PRST DIVISION Stirling Albion v St. Mirron SECOND DIVISION Clyde v Stranzeer Hereitos v Stranbour THEO DIVISION Cowdenheath y Forfer y Strangas REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: lot League XI v FA XI for Deglarham & Redbridge FC3. FA CARLSBERG VASE Second round replay-Sandwell Borough v Hollern. regenty County (over reprise internation to internation to present processor). College Premitter Divisions: Bornoer Bridge v Lancaster; College Bay v Rancom; Laek v Genstonough, Livetille First; Division Coup first assent replays; Leigh v Ashton Lief. Second round: Amarton Lie v Workingsor; Neutralisel v Geest Francooc; Residen Bornugh v Cuzzan Ashton; Wolfscop v Lincoln Lief; Warnington v Congleton.

The Materials Liefe Williams (Section Middlenc Fish.)

sop v Integen (se; waarregoen v Orgestat.

PR MARTENS LEAGUE Southarn Division: Fisher Autherit v Cindentod (7.45). Dr Martens Cup account revend: Athersone v Termonth; Rectlich v Heliesoven Town; Cambridge City v Sudbury Town; Chebenham v Gloucester (7.45): Cravley v Tombridge, Mentry Tydis v Winney; Trokindige v Forest Green; Waterbookle v Winney. Trokindige v Forest Green; Waterbookle v Winney. Trokindige JENSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division (7.45): Bury Town v Sudbury Town; Great Yarmouth v Releashern; Sudbury Wanderers v Hadlagh: Tiptree v Woodbridge. Hodings Tiptree v Woodbridge. NORTH VIEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Divi-Home In Victal Conditions | Depositor From Notice |
Home Bridgeon Rouges V Neurosatia Tourne Mossillay V Netropatch | Rought Teighby second round: Maine Road V Motignove.
LINILET SUSSEX COURITY LEAGUE First Divisions Automate V Horsbarn YMCA: Peochasina & Telsorribe V Burgers HB.

Telsorribe V Burgers HB.

Telsorribe V Danney Leadue Tour Lea Divisions Automated V Burgers HB. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division Bristol Manur Form v Twotton,

WINSTONEAD RENT LEAGUE: Chesham v Cay (7-45); Feversham v Cacaschury, Follwitche v Heme Bay (7-45); Slade Green v Backenham: Turbetde Walle v Heme

and the second s

TODAY'S FIXTURES SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Pramier Division: Colesano y Garrison: Crusaders y Citionwille, Por-tachest y Geriston. First Division: Sargor y Lame, Newty y Ornagh Town (7,45). AVON DISURANCE COMBRIATION First Divi-sion: Milled v Southempton (2.0). saper Managur v Schulbernsport (227).
PONTINS LEAGUE Premiller Biblislans Everion v
Leeds (7.0) at Southpart); Nothingham Forest v
Birmingham (7.0), First Divisions Sheffleld Und
v Sunderfand (7.0) fot Dor Valley Stadfleld Und
Division: Chesterfield v Walesti (7.0). LIVERSON CHARGEMENT V WATERS (7.0%. PA YOUTH CUP Second resent: Wolves v Wycornbe (7.0); Wardord v Reading: Bristol Rousen v Queen's Park Rangers for Yater; West Scommich v Bertran (7.0); Viking Sports v Wirnbledon (7.45).

Rugby Union TOUR MATCHES: England A v Argantina (7.30) (at Morthampton): Richmond v Wassen Samoe (7.30); Scotland Development 29 v Queensland (7.30) (at McDiamid Park, Porth).

Rackathall CLASSIC COLA MEN'S NATIONAL CUP Semi-fizal second leg: Newcestle y Sheffed (7.30), Cricket TOUR MATCHES (First day of four): Metabe-letand v England (at Bullmann Arhibet: Chub); Queentiand v England A (at The Gabba, Britishe).

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Flying the flag

Alan Watkins looks at the changing face of the rugby tour, page 22

TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 1996 • THE INDEPENDENT

Blue memories

Chris Hewett previews today's Varsity match at Twickenham, page 22



Guscott on wing as England have to reshuffle

CHRIS HEWETT

Jack Rowell is not the sort of man to wish injury on his worst enemy, let alone members of his own rugby team. But the England coach is enough of an opportunist to subscribe at least occasionally to the silver lining theory of selection, hence his decision to recall Jeremy Guscott to national colours against Argentina at Twickenham this

After winning 45 caps as a centre, Guscott replaces his concussed Bath club-mate Ade-

Phil de Glanville and Will Caring continue their partnership in the England midfield and Rowell, acutely aware that he will have to perm two centres from three sooner or later, can rest easily in bed until the next crunch selection meeting at the end of January.

"We'll bite the bullet when it needs to be bitten," he said, tacitly admitting that if all three midfield contenders are fit and well going into the Five Nations opener against Scotland on 1 February, he would find it eas-

dayo Adebayo on the left wing. lottery. While Guscott is not a during the Barbarians' match think he offers an all-round fullcomplete stranger to the No 11 shirt - he made two Cup final appearances on the left wing as a replacement in the mid-1980s - it is the best part of a decade

> He remains England's most naturally gifted attacking centre, and for the moment, at least, his new role can only be seen as

Last weekend's mini-outbreak of concussion also accounted for Tim Stimpson. The new England full-back was stretchered from Twickenham ier to pick a winning line on the after tackling David Campese

Like Adebayo, he must now sit on the sidelines for a mandatory three-week rest period. Nick Beal, 26 last week, wins a first

"Nick has been playing ex-tremely well for Northampton," said Rowell, who took advice from Ian McGeechan, the Midlanders' coach, before plumping for Beal ahead of the more experienced Jon Callard.

"He has suffered in the past from being bounced around from position to position, but settled down now and I

with the touring Australians. back's game as well as a strike option from the back.

Beal will be the eighth player capped by Rowell in the space of four weeks. The remainder of this season's new boys - first-choices Andy Gomarsall, Simon Shaw and Chris Sheasby and the two front-row replacements Rob Hardwick and Phil Greening - stay in

Guscott was only told of Rowell's decision yesterday morning as he arrived at Bisham Abbey for a weights ses-sion. "Trn speechless for once,"

yous for this match than any other England game I've ever

"I'll approach things in the same way as I'm approaching all my rugby this season - looking for enjoyment, letting things happen without thinking too much about it in advance - but I'm fully aware that I've got a lot to learn about the wing po-

"Having said that, I'm keen to make the most of the extra space and freedom a wing tends to get. When all is said and

added...

Rowell went out of his way vesterday to support De Glanville's cantaincy after a weekend of sharp criticism in sections of the media. "Give him a chance," he said. "We're changing the side at the same time as we're trying to change the wavwe play, and Phil is a central figure in a very difficult balancing

"My information is that he played outstandingly for Bath

he said. "The only thing I'm sure done, I'm just happy to be in the against Harlequins on Saturday: about is that I'll be more ner-side; spending two games on the if anyone asks whether I am still bench has given me a new per- . convinced he is worth his place spective on things," Guscott in the side, I can only say to them that he is still there on the teamsheet and will be as long as his form and fitness lasts. That is the same for every

> player. Catt (Bath), A Gon

Rangers can break away as Celtic rest

Football

Tommy Burns last night defended his gamble of putting Celtic's championship chase on hold for 10 days as fans argued over the psychological significance of two postponements.

Celtic have given Rangers the opportunity to open a 17-point gap at the top of the Scottish Premier Division as they pursue in the wake of Saturday's defeat at Motherwell.

Alan Stubbs, who had flu at the weekend, will have recova ninth successive title. Now arguments will rage over whether Burns has made the right decision in requesting that the Scottish League postpone matches against the two bottom sides in

Matches against Kilmarnock at Celtic Park tomorrow and at Raith on Saturday have been called off because of Workl Cup call-ups for Jorge Cadete and Pierre van Hooijdonk.

Van Hooijdonk was named vesterday in the Dutch squad to face Belgium at the weekend, and Burns immediately activated the rule that allows postponements if a club has two players called away on international duty.

Rangers, eight points clear at

South America.

vantage to 17 if they won at Dundee United tomorrow and at home to Dunfermline on Saturday and Kilmarnock next Tuesday, 24 hours before Celtic

travel to Dunfermline. Burns sees his decision not as a risky business but "the obvious and right course of action"

ered for the trip to Dunfermline and Phil O'Donnell, out for much of the season, could also be back by then. Jackie McNamara. who has a hamstring problem, and the club captain. Paul McStay, will miss fewer matches following the ruling.

Paolo Di Canio's one-match suspension, which the Italian was due to serve at Raith on Saturday, will now be held over until the visit to East End Park. The Scottish League last night rearranged the match against Kilmarnock for Wednesday 8 January, and Celtic's trip to Raith for Tuesday 14 January.

Celtic issued a brief statement after yesterday's decision, Burns saying: "With the entire strikepresent, would stretch their ad- force unavailable through in-

Boro's Brazilian botheration

does not end with the home-

sickness and illness of Mrs Emer-

son, which have apparently unsettled her husband. The club

is also caught up in an inquiry by

the Central Bank of Brazil into

their £4.75m purchase of Junin-

ho last year. Boro are happy to

co-operate with investigations

into possible foreign exchange

fraud and tax evasion by Junin-ho's former club, São Paulo.

Emerson comes back

Emerson is back in the North- the 3-1 defeat at Newcastle a

east after finally returning from month ago.

The £4m Brazilian, who has

gone Awol three times in the

past month, almost did not

even make it back to Teesside

last night as his final flight

from Amsterdam was diverted

Middlesbrough hope to con-

vince the wayward midfielder that his future is at the River-

side Stadium. Emerson's last

game for Middlesbrough was

to Newcastle because of fog.

ternational duty, this is the obvious and right course of action to take and the reason the rule was created in the first place, so teams in this position are not penalised as a result of providing players for international duty.

Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, was as diplomatic as ever, insisting he will carry on considering the gap to be eight points until that particular figure changes in relation to Celtic's games in hand, but few can doubt that if Rangers open up a 17-point lead. Celtic will face immense pressure at East End Park on Wednesday week against Dunfermline.

Geoff Scobie, a Glasgow University psychology lecturer, could see arguments for and against the decision by Burns. There are two aspects to it - the players and management, and the fans," he said. "I suspect it may not be a bad thing for the Celtic players. Their morale took a blow at Motherwell over the weekend and, with two of their top players away, their confidence could have been dented further for the matches

against Kilmarnock and Raith. "But I think supporters are affected by the points gap, and if Celtic fall 17 behind it will unporters. There have been cases in recent years of clubs with games in hand catching a rival, and you need look no further than Manchester United overhauling Newcastle last season when the difference was 12

points at one stage." Malky Mackay wants to stay at Celtic despite reports that West Brom want him. The defender has turned down moves to Partick, Hibernian and Dundee United over the last year and is determined to fight for his place at Parkhead.



Hands up: Saudi Arabia's Hussain Omar (right) takes part in an aerial ballet with Khalid Sabbar of Iraq during their countries' Group B Asian Cup match in the Maktoum Stadium, Dubai, on Sunday. A 26th-minute goal from Fahad Mahlalel gave Saudi Arabia victory and a place in the quarter-finals

Graham's new Hauge link

Although there is no sugges-

tion of any illegal payments in the Halle move, news that Mat-

tiesen did the deal has angered

IAFA, the Association of Li-

censed Fifa Agents. Its secretary.

Dirk de Graen, said last night:

"It is getting a bit ridiculous. It

is a clear case of abusing the system. We have made several

complaints about Mattiesen and

Hauge in the past. It's obvious

that Hauge continues to work.

Fifa will take severe measures

against players and clubs. It's

difficult to get at Hauge but you can get at those who deal with

him, like clubs and players. And Mattiesen is first in line."

Fifa are expected to investi-

recent deals, but a spokesman for the train last night I made my

Fifa, Keith Cooper, said: "It is mind up to join Tottenham."

age a handful of complaints linking Mattiesen and Hauge in

"There have been sufficient clear cases and we expect that

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Cheque out at check-out?
- 8 Greatest master team's
- 9 Perhaps coffee tins shaped by worker (7)
- 11 One notices Sweden's man at the wheel? (7) 12 Weeping woman's cut one's hesitation, it's ele-
- mentary (7) 13 Given a pound Greek character returned record
- 16 Always quick and never reaching a grave state (9) 19 Badly affected by copper

14 Possibly a vampire? (5,4)

- ram (3-2) 21 Rodent catcher let out of old car (3-4)
- 23 They're left about on elec-
- to get ethics in pub? (3,4) 25 Good, comparatively frilly, 7 feature of cold age (7) 26 Finding over 5 ways of
- communicating? (12) 1 One directing search for vain man (7)
- About noon stop my annoving cough? (7)
 To live holding foot of leading sailor is praisewor-
- Stoop of Hamlet, say? (5) Bad cons breaking out would do this (7) Early changes will keep it far from the realm of

Districted by Newspaper Publishing P.C. I Canada Square, Canary Whatt, Lombon E145DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St.

dreams (7)

- tricity supply (7) 24 It shows what must be paid
 - Criminal version of 1 across? (5-3-4) 10 Publicity after prison sentence is certainly not flash (4.8)
 - 15 Chemical store gone up in explosion (9) 17 Article on lack of oxygen in chest suggest a nasty disease (7)
 - not for the fleet (7) 19 Company accepts blame faulty harpsichord (7) 20 Three attempt to confine one silly person (7) 22 Journalists are applying

force (5)

. Back some, available from Houric New papers, 11900 (40)70.

Regressed on a memographic with the Post of their

persuade their young batting talent Andrew Symonds to turn down an invitation to play for Australia A against the touring 18 Hard place of retreat but West Indies in Melbourne on

> strong squad, accepts the offer, it would effectively end his career at the county and would also make him ineligible to play for England.
> The Gloucestershire chief

executive Philip August ex-

If the 21-year-old Anglo-

Australian, named in a 12-

George Graham is facing a Fifa

investigation into new links with the banned agent Rune Hauge after he made Gunnar Halle his

first signing for Leeds yesterday.

The Leeds manager signed the Norwegian full-back from Old-ham for £400,000 yesterday in a

deal handled by Hauge's partner,

Halle was previously a client of Hauge's and, like many other

Scandinavian players, has moved

to Matuesen's stable in the last

year. That was when Hauge was hanned by the world governing

body from having a licence to conduct transfers because of his

part in the transfer scandal which

engulfed Graham when he was

Arsenal manager, and then ad-

vising Mattiesen's player Lars Bo-

hinen in a move to Blackburn.

Gloucestershire are trying to

Frank Matticsen.

cation to play for us as an English-based player.

Symonds' loyalty put to test

"This means he won't be able to play for us next season because our one overseas player that we are allowed is Courtney Walsh, who happens to be the club's captain, so we couldn't really dump him."

Symonds, born in Birmingham but raised in Australia, where he was a member of the Australian Cricket Academy. will come under pressure to reject the overtures of the country to which he emigrated when just 18 months old. Au-

Test and County Cricket Board 5 Live, said: "We are, in a desees it, it will break his qualifi- cent sort of way, trying to persuade him not to play for

thing. It is also down to the de-

gree an unlicensed agent is

actively involved. There is a

grey area that we are concerned

cause of Hauge's involvement, it would be Leeds' second trans-

fer blow in two days, following

John Scales' decision to join

Spurs. Leeds were confident

that they had signed the Liver-

pool defender, but Scales begins training with Tottenham today, and could make his debut - at

Leeds - on Saturday, if a groin

injury heals in time.
"It was a very difficult situa-

tion. I had my medical at Leeds,

but I always said I would make

my decision over the week-

end." Scales told Radio 5 Live

yesterday. "Coming home on

If the deal falls through be

"Courtney Walsh will be play ing tomorrow for the West Indies against the Australian Prime Minister's XI in Canberra and will be talking to Andrew on our behalf and explaining the benefits of staying within the English county syst :m and playing for Gloucesurshire.

The ball is firmly in Andrew's court. If he accepts the invitation to play for Australia A, the interpretation is that it breaks his qualification and therefore we would not be able plained: "As I see it, and as the gust, speaking on BBC Radio to play him next year."

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